

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 73

TUESDAY APRIL 14, 2020

www.saipantribune.com

www.facebook.com/saipantribune



SLOW RETURN TO NORMAL

Unlike last week when the Sugar King Dock was completely deserted, the place, locally referred to as "Bantalan," is now starting to have some people fishing or playing while still maintaining social distancing.

KRIZEL TUAZON

FEMA: Peak still in mid-June

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Current modeling for the Marianas suggests that COVID-19 positive cases are to exceed local capacity by late April, with peak hospitalization to occur in mid-June, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

Sablan said the modeling comes from a briefing by Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX administrator Bob Fenton that he presented to insular delegates on FEMA's ongoing response to COVID-19 in the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the CNMI. It was not immediately clarified if

See FEMA on Page 4

PSS furloughs start this week

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

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REPORTER

The Public School System administration has officially notified all locally funded staff that they would be furloughed starting this week.

According to a letter that PSS sent out yesterday to all its locally funded teachers and staff, starting April 15, they would all be furloughed because PSS is unable to pay their salaries.

"Due to the economic impact of COVID-19, the CNMI Public School

System is implementing measures to ensure the financial stability of the organization. The current pandemic has impacted PSS' services significantly, and as a result, we find that we must make some difficult personnel

See PSS on Page 4

COVID-19 cases: 8 stable, 1 in hospital

By JUSTINE NAUTA

justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Of the 11 persons in the CNMI who have tested positive for COVID-19 and minus the two deaths, *Saipan Tribune* learned that eight are in stable condition at the Kanoa Re-

sort quarantine site in Susupe, while one is currently hospitalized at the Commonwealth Health Center on Navy Hill.

Due to privacy concerns, however, nothing more could be learned about the individual who is current-

See COVID-19 on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 2:30pm, April 13, 2020

GUAM

Positive: **133**
Recovered: **58**
Deaths: **5**

CNMI

Positive: **11**
Negative: **36**
Deaths: **2**

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

Millions of tax paying immigrants won't get stimulus checks



In this March 31, 2020, photo, Maria Zamorano poses for a portrait inside a job placement center in Pasadena, Calif.

AP

By ASTRID GALVAN, PHILIP MARCELO and CLAUDIA TORRENS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX (AP)—The \$2.2 trillion package that Congress approved to offer financial help during the coronavirus pandemic has

one major exclusion: millions of immigrants who do not have legal status in the U.S. but work here and pay taxes.

That includes Carmen Contreras Lopez, a 48-year-old housekeeper who, though she earns low wages,

See MILLIONS on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Many in Guam are nervous as sailors from an aircraft carrier flood into hotels.

PAGE 7



BUSINESS

Crowd-favorite Mango Six Café in Dandan is open once again for take-out services.

PAGE 11



LIFE & STYLE

"Saturday Night Live" tried its first "quarantine version" of the comedy show.

PAGE 15



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Torres: Furloughing has always been our last option

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the furlough of many government workers set to take effect next week, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is providing hope to the workers, saying that when the economy

gets better, the furloughed employees would be the first employees to be offered back positions in the government.

With the economic catastrophe the CNMI is facing and with tourism shutdown on the islands, the Torres administration had some very

tough decisions made, which included letting go of some of its workforce.

To cut the overall government personnel cost by 50%, the administration made the difficult decision and looked into terminating some accepted service employees,

and the furlough of some civil service employees for a one-year period.

Torres, however, made it clear that "furloughing has always been our last option," adding that they have done austerity, and reduced hours so every employee can maintain their job, but the COVID-19 pandemic made that decision necessary.

The governor also said that the furlough could also be taken as an opportunity, since under the CARES Act's Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, employees who would get furloughed will be able to avail of the stimulus package. He added that while they do not want to do the furlough, it's an opportunity for employees to benefit and to receive the

unemployment benefit for the next six months or so.

"...When the economy's health goes back, those will be the first employees to be offered back the position. Again, we don't [want to] do this but, unfortunately, tourism is our only [industry], and we stand [not] having any tourism [industry] here on the islands for the next few months," he said.

While continuing to work with local partners, the administration is leveraging and maximizing federal partnership in an effort to save the community.

"We have a lot of business partners throughout the islands but, unfortunately, we have a lot of obstacles and challenges. [For] one, we don't have a manufacturing

company here. We don't have the services to stimulate our own economy," he said.

The governor said that revenue comes from the tourism market, and without the tourist money back, the only hope that the CNMI has is to maximize its federal partnership, while continuing to work with partners such as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations.

Last week, when the furlough was announced, the administration assured the community that the government will be exerting all efforts, and work with the U.S. Department of Labor, to ensure the protection of government employees who would be terminated or furloughed.

Furlough is defined as a temporary leave for employees, mostly due to bad economic conditions.



Torres

'Hit-and-run victim not entitled to restitution as he is dead'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who died as a result of the injuries he sustained in a hit-and-run case is not entitled to restitution for his hospital bills because he is dead and cannot pay any bills himself, according to the Office of the Public Defender.

Assistant public defender Jean Pierre Nogues, counsel for Esekial "Easy" Smith, argued that no evidence was ever presented in filings or hearings to support any contention that the decedent, Melton Agulto, left an estate or had an executor for that estate.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho did not misapprehend the issues before him, said Nogues in Smith's opposition to the Office of the Attorney General's motion for reconsideration of the judge's ruling.

Nogues said Camacho reviewed all disputed matters of restitution amounts and made determination as to all of them.

Last March 30, Camacho ruled that the Department of Fire and Emergency Medi-

» Defense counsel argues that judge did not misapprehend issues

cal Services and Commonwealth Health Care Corp. are not entitled to restitution over Agulto's death because they are only third-party indirect victims.

The judge denied the CNMI government's request to hold Smith liable to pay \$1,866 in restitution for the medical services provided by DFEMS and CHCC to Agulto.

Camacho, however, found that Smith is liable for \$4,972 in restitution payment to Agulto's mother, Gloria Cabrera. The Office of the Attorney General requested a total of \$8,613 in restitution. Smith conceded that he owed \$4,972. The government, through the OAG, then filed a motion for Camacho to reconsider his ruling.

In the government's motion for reconsideration, assistant attorney general J. Robert Glass Jr. asserted that Camacho should amend his judgment to include the \$1,866 in bills from CHCC and DFEMS

to be paid to the victim, Agulto. Glass said there is no question that Agulto is the direct victim in this case and to deny his estate recovery for these bills would be clear error and a manifest injustice.

In Smith's opposition, Nogues said evidence was added to confirm that Agulto was, at the time of his death, an adult and not a dependent of any other person. Thus, Nogues pointed out, Agulto's mother, Cabrera, was not responsible for his hospital bills, any more than Agulto's uncle, next-door neighbor, or pastor was. Neither did Agulto's mother pay those bills, the defense counsel said.

Nogues said Camacho properly rejected the contention that Agulto's mother should be compensated by Smith for the CHCC and DFEMS bills accrued by Agulto's medical care.

Nogues said that, in its motion for reconsideration, the OAG takes an entirely different tack and argues that they were always asking for Agulto to receive the restitution. "But he cannot. He is

See VICTIM on Page 4

OVR to provide services by phone, email

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has temporarily closed its offices to the public in response to COVID-19. While in-person services are suspended until further notice, OVR staff will continue to provide services by phone and email during business hours.

Current OVR consumers who have not been contacted by their assigned OVR staff person can contact the office by phone at 287-6548 or 287-6538, or email at maryann@ovrgov.net, or they can call the office main phone line (Monday-Wednesday-Friday) from 9am to 1pm at 322-6537/38, with any questions or concerns. Members of the public seeking disability employment resources or information about OVR services may visit the OVR website, www.ovrgov.net.

If you have an appointment

scheduled with OVR or an OVR service provider, notify your OVR contact or your service provider to reschedule your appointment or conduct it via phone if possible.

We hope that you will take the time to learn more about COVID-19, how to protect yourself from infectious diseases, and how to prepare yourself. If you would like more information about the COVID-19 pandemic, visit the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention or CHCC (www.chcc.gov.mp) sites for the most up-to-date information.

We also encourage employers to review the recent U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission bulletin on steps employers should take related to provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Rehabilitation Act

in response to COVID-19. OVR will be working with the CNMI Department of Labor regarding the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, to ensure consumers receive necessary information to avail of needed services. OVR will work with consumers needing assistance with the PUA program. As recommended by the CNMI-DOL, prepare your documents if you plan on applying for the PUA program (certification letter from employer, a valid photo ID, latest pay stubs and Social Security number). The certification letter must state the employee's name, title, wages, and schedule of the regular working hours, and the number of reduced hours, before the layoff or termination. OVR will provide additional details as soon as they are available. (PR)

OAG wants convicted murderer's parole revoked

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has urged the Board of Parole to hear the case again of convicted murderer Shawn Appleby and revoke his parole.

Chief prosecutor John Bradley said yesterday that the COVID-19 pandemic is no excuse for criminal behavior or lenience in cases like this.

"The community deserves to be protected, and the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division will work hard to make sure victims are heard," Bradley said.

A preliminary hearing was set yesterday afternoon before a parole officer at the Department of Corrections in order to determine whether there is probable cause to believe that Appleby violated the conditions of his parole. The hearing was also intended to determine whether the matter should be referred for consideration by the Parole Board.

Appleby is currently in DOC's custody.

Bradley told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the Parole Board found probable cause against Appleby at the hearing and that a hearing date for revocation is next.

Bradley has yet to receive the document listing the allegations of violations of parole.

In September 2019, despite the OAG's and the Parole Of-

» 'Presence of COVID-19 pandemic is no excuse for criminal behavior or lenience in cases'

fice's opposition to grant Appleby parole, the Parole Board voted to release him.

In the government's memorandum yesterday addressed to Board of Parole director Ramon B. Camacho, Bradley expressed his opposition to the grant of parole for Appleby.

Appleby was sentenced to 42 years in prison for the charges of first-degree murder and escape.

Bradley said Appleby is not suitable for parole. He said Appleby has served less than half of his sentence and has

slightly over 24 years remaining. He said the inmate was previously granted parole in February 2011, only for it to be revoked in December 2012 for violating the conditions of his parole.

Bradley said Appleby admitted in his interview for the investigation report that he drinks alcohol and uses crystal meth, which he said could potentially result in future criminal acts.

Bradley said upon review of the institutional conduct report from the Department of Corrections, Appleby was sanctioned in 2012 and 2014, and was placed in isolation for violations such as disrespect to staff and possession of tobacco.

"Such actions during this

incarceration indicate that the inmate fails to comply, and adhere to instructions, rules, orders, and, most importantly, the law," the chief prosecutor said.

He said Appleby's criminal history indicates that he has been charged with other crimes that include conspiracy, assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, robbery, theft, riot, and numerous counts for burglary.

Bradley added that the recommendations of the Parole Office indicate that Appleby's release plans are not as conducive for a successful parole period.

Bradley said the OAG is in agreement with the Parole Office. He said clearly Appleby continues to pose a significant threat to the safety and welfare of the Commonwealth.

In the interest of justice and the welfare of the Commonwealth, Bradley said they oppose a grant of parole for Appleby and ask the Board of Parole to deny his application for parole.

Appleby is serving a 40-year prison for killing Byung Ok Suh in November 1996 after robbing the victim's store, Chalan Market, in San Antonio. The victim was shot.

Appleby bolted from the Department of Corrections twice, in 1999 and 2007, adding two more years to his 40-year prison term.



Bradley

Torres names 3 to represent Saipan on casino commission

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has nominated former House of Representatives speaker Rafael S. Demapan, former Zoning board chair Mariano Taitano, and Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Edward C. Deleon Guerrero to serve as members of the CCC representing Saipan.

As this developed, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's chief financial officer Ed Chen has resigned from IPI. He has been with IPI since September 2017. Chen's last day as CFO was last April 6, *Saipan Tribune* confirmed it yesterday with IPI.

The appointment of the three to the casino commission requires the advice and

» IPI CFO Chen resigned last April 6

consent of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. Torres submitted his nomination letters to Rep. Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan), who chairs the delegation, last March 11. If confirmed, Demapan, Taitano, and Deleon Guerrero will each serve four-year terms, which will expire in April 2024.

Torres said he and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios are confident in Demapan's, Taitano's, and Deleon Guerrero's leadership to carry out the mandate of the board in governing and managing the CCC.

Torres made the appointments as the six-year terms

of CCC chair Juan M. Sablan and commissioners Joseph C. Reyes and Alvaro A. Santos will expire on April 30.

Deleon Guerrero, who spoke in a recent interview in his capacity as CCC executive director, said that, by May 1, Torres has to appoint three commissioners from Saipan to have a quorum, as the commission will be left with only two commissioners—Ramon M. Dela Cruz of Tinian and Diego M. Songao of Rota. Both have four more years to serve.

Sablan, who was sworn into office in October 2014, said the past five years as a commissioner and chairman has been a very challenging but fruitful experience.

Sablan said he has always been a supporter of the casino

industry simply because he knew the potential that it could bring in infusing revenue for the CNMI. He said there's still a very rough road ahead, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected many globally.

With respect to Chen's resignation, IPI said it was a difficult decision by IPI as they fully appreciate his contribution to the company. IPI said, however, they believe a leaner finance department is essential to the success of the company going forward.

Senator appeals to OPA to audit CBF

By **IVA MAURIN**
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REPORTER

Prior to the House of Representatives minority bloc's recent finding of "very few records" from the Office of the Governor documenting the actual disbursement of the community benefit fund, the Office of the Public Auditor has been asked to audit those funds since last year.

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), in a letter last December, asked the OPA to audit the use and expenditures of the CBF, pursuant to Section 16 of the casino license agreement between the CNMI Lottery Commission and the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC.

"The community benefit fund is part of the consideration or payment of the exclusive casino license and therefore considered public funds, giving your office the authority to conduct audits accordingly," Manglona wrote.

The senator stated that although CBF monies are not

deposited into the general fund, they should be considered public funds, adding that it is part of the consideration or payment for the exclusive casino license, and was pledged in exchange for government property, i.e. the casino license. "Therefore, the community benefit fund is tantamount to earmarked funds of the CNMI," he added.

Manglona also noted that the governor's consultation is required before CBF funds are disbursed to community benefit programs, such as education, scholarships, infrastructure, health care, employee retirement benefits, "all government functions and responsibilities."

"...The office of the public auditor has a special duty to prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse in the collection and expenditure of all public funds. This duty should extend to the expenditure of the community benefit fund, which is tantamount to government earmarked funds,"

ger position to be profitable and contribute to the CNMI economy.

Effective last March 17, IPI temporarily closed its casino until further notice, to support the public effort in the control of the coronavirus. IPI said the health and safety of its customers and employees have always been the company's top priority.

IPI said they will update the public and their partners on when the casino will re-open, taking into account guidance from public health authorities.

the senator said.

Based on the casino license agreement, IPI should have already deposited \$40 million in the CBF by now. The House minority bloc recently stated, based on the documents they gathered from their Open Government Act request, that only at least \$10 million has been deposited into the escrow, and only about \$1.2 million in CBF have actually been distributed for just four programs or projects.

The senator argued that there is no official report on the CBF disbursement or expenditure to date. "These funds must be accounted for and any distribution must be disclosed for transparency. The expenditure of these funds must only be made for the intended purposes as enumerated in the casino license agreement."

Manglona stressed that it is incumbent on the OPA to ensure that the community benefit fund monies are spent accordingly.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MLSC available by phone

The Marianas office of the Micronesia Legal Services Corp. continues to be closed to public contact during this time of COVID-19 pandemic prevention efforts. We are available by telephone at 234-7729 or 234-6243. We are a private-non-profit organization serving low-income people in the CNMI; we do not charge fees for our legal services. People may apply for assistance through our telephone intake process. (PR)

4.2-magnitude quake on Anatahan

At 4:45am on April 13 2020, a report of a 4.2-magnitude earthquake occurred 44 kilometers northwest of Anatahan in the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

4.6-magnitude quake on Pagan

At 10:02pm on April 12 2020, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred 30 kilometers south of Pagan in the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, no

tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

5.0-magnitude quake in Guam

At 3pm on April 10 2020, a report of a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred 110 kilometers southwest of Merizo Village in Guam. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

Free Guam webinars

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars for April 2020. Webinars run from 10am to 11am and will be conducted via Zoom. A link to the live webinar will be emailed to all registered attendees 30 minutes before the start of the webinar. A survey link will be emailed to attendees after the completion of the webinar. Register on the PTAC website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

Traffic court cases rescheduled

The CNMI Office of the Clerk of Court, Superior Court would like to notify individuals with traffic citations, cases pursuant to a court order issued by Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Nara-já that were initially scheduled for April 2, 2020, are rescheduled to May 14, 2020, at 9am.

All parties with traffic citation(s) scheduled for hearing (arraignment) during the following date will be held at the Supreme Court courtroom of the Guma Hustisia.

For additional information, you may contact the Office of the Clerk of Court at telephone number 234-4253, 783-8417, or 783-8522. (PR)

Transfer station, landfill hours

The Department of Public Works has announced revised operation hours at the Lower Base Transfer Station and Marpi Landfill. The Lower Base Transfer Station will be open all week from 7:30am to 1pm, except Wednesday. For more information, call (670) 322-2745 (Lower Base office). Also, the Marpi Landfill will be open all week from 7:30am to 1pm, except Wednesday. For more information, call (670) 322-2761 (Marpi Landfill Office). (PR)

VINCENT J. SEMAN, CNMI Bar No. F-0361
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Attorney for: Petitioner Christina Palacios Sedaghaty

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF REX ALAN INDALECIO PALACIOS, Deceased)
PROBATE CASE)
NO. 20-0107-CV)
NOTICE OF HEARING)
OF REX)
ON PETITION TO)
INDALECIO)
PALACIOS,)
Deceased)
Date: June 18, 2020)
Time: 10:00AM)
Judge: Camacho, Joseph Norita)

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE REX I. PALACIOS OR OF HIS ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Christina Palacios Sedaghaty, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to probate the Last Will and Testament of REX ALAN INDALECIO PALACIOS, "Testator or Decedent". The attorney for Petitioner is Vincent J. Seman, Esq., whose address is JET Building, Suite 204, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, PO Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition to probate the Last Will and Testament of Decedent by Petitioner is scheduled to be heard on June 18, 2020 at 10:00AM, at the CNMI Supreme Court Courtroom, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to VINCENT J. SEMAN, Esq. at his address herein-above indicated.

By: /s/ Judge Camacho, Joseph Norita
Dated this 02 April 2020.

VINCENT J. SEMAN, CNMI Bar No. F-0361
Seman Law Offices, LLC
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 323-2115
E-mail: vjseman@semanlaw.com

Attorney for: Petitioner Jose T. Seman

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JACOB T. SEMAN, Deceased)
PROBATE CASE)
NO. 20-0112-CV)
NOTICE OF HEARING)
ON PETITION TO)
PROBATE and)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS)
Date: June 18, 2020)
Time: 10:00AM)
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho)

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JACOB T. SEMAN OR OF HER ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Jose T. Seman, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of JACOB TAKEDA SEMAN, "Testator or Decedent". The attorney for Petitioner is Vincent J. Seman, Esq., whose address is JET Building, Suite 204, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, PO Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition to probate the Last Will and Testament of Decedent by Petitioner is scheduled to be heard on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., at Superior Court Courtroom, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to VINCENT J. SEMAN, Esq. at his address herein-above indicated.

By: /s/ Judge Camacho, Joseph Norita
Dated this 02 April 2020.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
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POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
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ATTORNEY FOR Administrator

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In re Estate of GEORGE A. MANGLONA, Deceased.)
CIVIL ACTION)
NO. 97-1061)

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 11, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of the Estate of George A. Manglona in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
(1) Lot 001 T 22, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands; and
(2) Lot 008 T 85, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands.

Total area of the property:
(1) Lot 001 T 22 contains an area of 1,448 square meters, more or less.
(2) Lot 008 T 85 contains an area of 901 square meters.

Known encumbrances:
(1) Lot 001 T 22 is a subject to outstanding mortgages, the balances due on which are negotiable.
(2) Lot 008 T 85 is a leasehold estate, which expires on July 21, 2047. No further rent is due.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 1, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 30th day of March, 2020:
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

APRIL SPECIAL!

3BR 2BA & 4BR 2BA
1st Month Rent Free!!!
Free Washer & Dryer
Rent starting
at \$746/mo
Section 8 accepted
Move in ready
CALL TODAY!
588-7746 / 285-4745
ISa Villas 1
Corner of Guguan St.
Anatahan St. Capitol Hill

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP20-CHCC/FACILITIES-002

NEW SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 29, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM
"SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF A 25-TON AIR-CONDITIONING IN THE OXYGEN GENERATING ROOM"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO RFP'S TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

***MANDATORY ASSESSMENT ON APRIL 8, 2020**
@ 9:00 A.M. SAIPAN TIME @ THE CHCC FACILITY/MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

VINCENT J. SEMAN, CNMI Bar No. F-0361
Seman Law Offices, LLC
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 323-2115
E-mail: vjseman@semanlaw.com

Attorney for: Petitioner Jose T. Seman

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JACOB T. SEMAN, Deceased)
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Judge: Joseph N. Camacho)

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JACOB T. SEMAN OR OF HER ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Jose T. Seman, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of JACOB TAKEDA SEMAN, "Testator or Decedent". The attorney for Petitioner is Vincent J. Seman, Esq., whose address is JET Building, Suite 204, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, PO Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition to probate the Last Will and Testament of Decedent by Petitioner is scheduled to be heard on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., at Superior Court Courtroom, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to VINCENT J. SEMAN, Esq. at his address herein-above indicated.

By: /s/ Judge Camacho, Joseph Norita
Dated this 02 April 2020.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
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ATTORNEY FOR Administrator

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In re Estate of GEORGE A. MANGLONA, Deceased.)
CIVIL ACTION)
NO. 97-1061)

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 11, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of the Estate of George A. Manglona in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
(1) Lot 001 T 22, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands; and
(2) Lot 008 T 85, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands.

Total area of the property:
(1) Lot 001 T 22 contains an area of 1,448 square meters, more or less.
(2) Lot 008 T 85 contains an area of 901 square meters.

Known encumbrances:
(1) Lot 001 T 22 is a subject to outstanding mortgages, the balances due on which are negotiable.
(2) Lot 008 T 85 is a leasehold estate, which expires on July 21, 2047. No further rent is due.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 1, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 30th day of March, 2020:
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Fuel prices continue to drop

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI saw its fifth drop in fuel prices this year and its third rollback

since the COVID-19 outbreak in the Marianas.

Over the weekend, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., reduced its gas prices by another 15 cents, drop-

ping fuel prices from \$3.43 per gallon of Extra fuel to \$3.28 a gallon, while their Supreme fuel dropped from \$3.88 a gallon to \$3.73 a gallon. The price of diesel remains \$3.91 per gallon.

According to local motorist Joe Sablan, he is glad the gas prices con-

tinue to go down because it's a big help for those who still have work during this pandemic.

"It makes sense because the economy is so bad right now everywhere. But yeah, we are just staying home so we don't really feel the benefit of lowered gas prices. I'm glad, though, because it helps the front liners and all those who are transporting people to either the hospital, the quarantine grounds, or other places," he said.

Sablan hopes that gas prices will remain low until everyone recovers completely from the impact of COVID-19.

A Commonwealth Health Center nurse, who agreed to speak on the condition of anonymity, said that

although a 15-cent drop may seem small, it's a lot given the CNMI, and the world's current state as a result of COVID-19.

"A little goes a long way in this time of crisis," she said.

In related news, despite rumors of gas shortages Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. assured yesterday that there is sufficient fuel supply available on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"We are aware of a message circulating on social media informing [the public] that Mobil is low on gas and diesel and there is a delay in its fuel shipment. Mobil Oil Marianas would like to reassure the public that it is not true," the advisory stated.

MILLIONS

From Page 1

files a tax return each year. Since the virus took hold, she has lost most of her clients and is getting by with help from her oldest son. But she won't see a penny of the money promised to most Americans in response to the pandemic.

"It's hard because to the government, we don't exist," said Contreras Lopez, who has lived in the U.S. for 30 years and has four grown children who are U.S. citizens.

The government expects to begin making payments to millions of Americans in mid-April. Anyone earning up to \$75,000 in adjusted gross income and who has a So-

cial Security number will receive \$1,200. The payment steadily declines for those who make more. Legal permanent residents, or green card holders, are expected to benefit.

Roughly 4.3 million mostly unauthorized immigrants who do not have a Social Security number file taxes using what's known as a taxpayer identification number, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

Many say they pay federal taxes because they hope it will one day help them achieve legal residency and because they feel it's the right thing to do.

"We made that decision because we're living in a country that's welcomed us with a lot of love," said

Ingrid Vaca, a house cleaner in the Washington, D.C., area.

Vaca said immigrants take care of communities, children, the elderly and homes, but they will not receive any help themselves. Also left out are the workers' 3.5 million children, many of whom are American citizens.

"This is a nightmare to me and many of my colleagues," Vaca said, lamenting the lack of income for rent and basic necessities. "We need for us to be respected."

Asked how immigrants without legal status will survive the pandemic's economic toll without any aid, President Donald Trump acknowledged the difficulty but said many citizens without work need help first.

COVID-19

From Page 1

ly at CHC.

As of 5:30pm, April 12, the CNMI's numbers for COVID-19 remain the same as of April 8. The Commonwealth Health Care Corp., which runs CHC is still awaiting the results of the nine pending COVID-19 tests.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, there are 11 positive cases in the CNMI to date and two deaths.

Addressing the concerns of many non-U.S. citizens, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is encouraging non-U.S. citizens to seek necessary medical treatment or preventative services should you have symptoms that resemble COVID-19.

"Such treatment or preventive services will not negatively affect any alien as part of a future Public Charge analysis," states part of the USCIS statement that was released by CHCC.

The statement added that any COVID-19 test and/or treatment "will be covered by your health insurance, with little to no copay. It is suggested that you should check with your health insurance provider" about coverage and copay changes for any COVID-19-related services.

If an individual doesn't have health

insurance, CHCC offers a sliding fee discount program that will allow discounts for COVID-19 related services according to family income. CNMI residents, regardless of immigration status, can also avail of this program.

If an undocumented individual seeks COVID-19 screening or treatment, CHCC won't report the immigration status of their patients to federal immigration authorities.

"COVID-19 doesn't discriminate, and neither does CHCC," the statement said. "It's essential that everyone get the care they need to combat this virus in our community."

Telemedicine pediatrics

Does your child have an unknown rash that you don't know how to treat? CHCC's Pediatrics Department offers telemedicine services.

Telemedicine is the practice of caring for patients remotely when the provider and patient are not physically present with each other. Modern technology has allowed doctors to consult patients by using The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act compliant video-conferencing tools.

According to a Facebook post, CHCC's Pediatrics Department will now be seeing children via laptop, tablet, cellphones, or anything with a webcam.

If you want to obtain a same-day

appointment by phone or video chat, call (670)234-8950 and ask to make a telehealth appointment for children's clinic.

This medical advantage is meant for appointments that do not need immediate care unless the doctor advises that you must go to the hospital for a certain appointment. If you do have an emergency, it is advised that you call 911 or go straight to the emergency room at CHC.

COVID-19 in Guam

As of 2:30pm, April 13, Guam's COVID-19 numbers remain the same. According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, the Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 33 individuals for COVID-19 last April 11. Two came back positive through DPHSS, 31 tested negative, and one additional case was confirmed through Diagnostic Laboratory Services.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the DPHSS overall count also includes cases of COVID-19 that have been clinically diagnosed, confirmed positive cases tested by the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego, California, and confirmed positive cases through DLS.

As of 2:30pm, April 13, there are a total of 133 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Guam, with 58 recoveries and five deaths. All 70 remaining cases are in isolation.

since it guarantees him and his colleagues financial aid through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance that was recently announced by the CNMI government.

"It's the only hope we have to cling to since our government can no longer sustain the Public School System, and other departments, due to the economic impact of COVID-19," he said.

On top of the furlough, teachers and staff have yet to be paid for the last payroll and PSS still owes them 30% of the payroll before that.

The PSS administration itself will be spared from the furlough, according to *Saipan Tribune* archives.

FEMA

From Page 1

FEMA's reference to the Marianas refers to both Guam and the CNMI.

"In preparation, a 50-bed Federal Medical Station, a type of alternate care site, is under construction in the Marianas to supplement local capacity. The [U.S.] Army Corps of Engineers is also looking at alternate facilities in case additional space is needed," Sablan said.

Last Thursday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced that the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. has broken ground on the 50-bed temporary hospital at the upper level parking lot behind the existing hospital, the Commonwealth Health Center, to be used as a preparedness and infection control measure should the CNMI experience a spike in the number of COVID-19 patients who would require isolation hospital care.

FEMA is also sending two medical strike teams of 10 to 12 doctors and nurses to Guam to expand capability, one of which will be deployed to the Northern Marianas, if needed.

"Two, point-of-care COVID-19 test machines, which deliver results

within 15 minutes, are on the way. To date, the Marianas has received two shipments of personal protective equipment from the Strategic National Stockpile via military C-17 transport aircraft. A third shipment has been sent," Sablan said.

On top of these, FEMA is also paying for the two hotels that are being used as non-primary care sheltering areas in the Marianas: the Kanoa Resort in Susupe and the Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio.

Right now, CHC has a total of 86 beds but only 76 beds are available and there are only 17 ventilators—the machines that are used to treat COVID-19 patients who are having difficulty breathing. Most COVID-19 cases in the CNMI are in isolation at the Kanoa Resort quarantine site; only one is at the hospital. The White House said last week that 500 ventilators on loan from California will be shipped to Nevada, Maryland, Delaware, the District of Columbia, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam.

The CNMI also recently received medical supplies and equipment, including personal protective equipment and gowns for doctors, nurses, and first responders from the U.S. national stockpile.

VICTIM

From Page 2

dead, has no estate, and never paid the bills himself (or even received them, for that matter)," the defense counsel pointed out.

To order Smith to pay restitution to Agulto for his hospital bills would be to, de facto, order the restitution to be paid either to Cabrera or directly to CHCC and DFEMS, Nogues said. Camacho, however, already pointed out in his order that a defendant was not liable to pay restitution to the victim's employer for medical expenses paid by the employer because the employer was an indirect third-party victim. Thus, he said, Camacho properly found that Smith does not owe restitution to CHCC or DFEMS.

The defense counsel said Camacho properly found that Smith does not owe restitution for the unpaid medical bills to Agulto's mother, Cabrera. Nogues said the government did not argue in its previous motions or in the hearing that Agulto was the victim seeking restitution. He said the government expressly argued that CHCC, DFEMS, and Cabrera were the victims seeking restitution.

"To now suggest otherwise because

the actual original argument lost the day is insincere," Nogues added.

According to court records, on the evening of Aug. 18, 2019, Agulto, who had been taken to the hospital for injuries over a fight, fled from the hospital on foot. Police failed to locate him. After midnight on Aug. 19, 2019, Smith, who was driving a vehicle north in Puerto Rico, hit Agulto as the latter was walking in the middle of the street. Smith fled the scene after the accident. Agulto died as a result of his injuries. Later that day, Smith voluntarily surrendered to the police.

On Jan. 30, 2019, Smith pleaded guilty to the charges of leaving an accident scene and reckless driving. Smith was sentenced to five years and six months in prison, with the last six months suspended. He was ordered to pay restitution to Agulto's family and made eligible for work release while serving his sentence to pay the restitution.

The parties agreed that, at a minimum, Smith owed \$1,000 in restitution. Smith immediately paid the amount from the bail money that he had posted.

The parties disagreed as to how much was owed in restitution and to whom.

PSS

From Page 1

decisions. Effective April 15, 2020, PSS is implementing a temporary furlough for certain locally funded positions," the letter stated.

The furlough is set to last 12 months, meaning it would last until the end of the current school year and until the beginning of school year 2020-2021.

"The furlough is expected to last for the next 12 months. It is important to note that your employment continues but you are not required to report to work. Pursuant to PSS Regulations

§ 60-30.1-362 Furlough and Separation, (a) The Commissioner of Education may use furloughs for more than 30 days if there is reasonable assurance that the employees' furlough will be returned to duty within the next 12 months," the letter added.

Saipan Tribune reached out to Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada to obtain more comments but he failed to respond as of press time.

However, according to a number of locally funded teachers, they all received the same letter yesterday afternoon.

According to a Marianas High School teacher who requested anonymity, he supports the furlough

Temporary passing grade this school year OK'd at 60%

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Board of Education approved the Public School System's request to amend the minimum passing grade from 63% to 60% due to the current COVID-19 crisis that forced schools to cancel classes early.

During a special board meeting last weekend, BOE

member Phillip Mendiola-Long made a motion to amend the grade scale so that the percentage of failing grades be amended from 63% to 60%.

Board chair Janice Tenorio, vice chair Herman Atalig, and board members Andrew Orsini and Mendiola-Long voted yes to approve the motion. Marylou Ada was not present during

the meeting to make a vote.

Aside from amending the grade scale, BOE also approved PSS' request to provide flexibility for students to recover credit or work at the beginning of the next school year, and in regards to grading, that a "pass" or "no pass" be accepted in lieu of percentage grade.

According to Yvonne Pangelinan, associate commis-

sioner for Student & Support Services, PSS requested that the board suspend those requirements so principals and their staff can work on calculating failing credits and annual credits with grace and with some flexibility, considering the extreme circumstances right now.

Grades to determine whether a student passes the school year will be taken from the first quarter up to March 12, when school closures were

implemented.

Pangelinan said students who are not graduating this year will be provided time in the next school year to make up course work and credits in order to graduate.

"There's no [other] way right now, with social distancing and all the measures. Education is an active process. It's a process of engagement, a process of communication and relationships, so with a computer screen bearing that

relationship, there's no way to re-address student needs. We want to be able to provide that one-to-one," she said.

Pangelinan said high schools will finalize and input grades and identify failing students from April 6 to 8 and students who were failing by the March 12 date will be given a "will be completed" and will be provided opportunities to complete work and recover their credit in the next school year.

Applying for the unemployment aid? Prepare docs now

By **IVA MAURIN**
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REPORTER

Those who want to apply for the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation and the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance programs should prepare their documents ahead of time, according to the CNMI Department of Labor.

Included in the list of documents that applicants would have to submit is a certification letter from their employer, a valid ID with photo, passport, copies of the latest paycheck stubs, and Social Security number.

"The certification letter must state the employee's name, title, wages, and schedule of the regular working hours, and the number of reduced hours, before the layoff or termination," said a statement from the Office of the Governor.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Saturday that the U.S. Department of Labor's Em-

ployment and Training Administration just notified the Commonwealth that it is eligible for the FPUC, which would provide eligible individuals \$600 per week, on top of the benefits under the PUA program. The notification from USDOL ETA Steve Malliaras, from the San Francisco Regional Office, was coursed through CNMI Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente.

"The notification from USDOL is one of the clarifications that we requested in order to move forward with the PUA program. There are still a few things we are coordinating with the U.S. Department of Labor, and we are grateful for their continued technical assistance," Benavente said.

Torres said the confirmation of territories being eligible for the FPUC is "much needed for the many employees in our economy that have been terminated, furloughed, or have had their hours reduced.

"We remain optimistic that we will be able to take care of our government and the many private sector employees who have been affected by no fault of their own. We ask the entire community to wait for official guidance from my office and CNMI DOL on these programs and to find out who is eligible," the governor added.

This emergency assistance is made possible through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, recently enacted by President Donald J. Trump.

The CNMI government is working around the clock to facilitate the assistance, and as soon as the eligibility requirements, benefits, and other information applicable to the CNMI is provided by USDOL, CNMI Labor will specify the date, time, location, telephone numbers, and email addresses for the submission of a PUA and/or FPUC application.



6 FEET APART

People maintain social distancing while withdrawing from the Bank of Hawaii ATM at the Star Sands Plaza in Gualo Rai.

KRIZEL TUAZON

US govt again opposes Ataligs' bid to add ex-OIG agent to their witness list

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has renewed its opposition to a joint motion by Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, to allow them to add a former special agent with the Office of the Inspector General as their expert witness.

In the U.S. government's renewed opposition filed Friday in federal court, assistant U.S. attorney Eric S. O'Malley asserted that the Ataligs' joint motion is untimely and that they have failed to provide a summary of the expert's opinion, bases, and reasons for those opinions, as required by the Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure.

Efraim Atalig and Evelyn Atalig, through their respective lawyers, David G. Banes and Steven P. Pixley, respectively, said they intend to call Dr. Gregory Vecchi as a witness regarding interviewing techniques and reporting in a criminal investigation.

In defendants' joint motion to amend witness list filed March 6 in court, Banes and Pixley said Vecchi has 19 years of experience working for the Federal Bureau of Investiga-

tion. They said that Vecchi has held various other professional positions related to criminal investigations, including as a special agent for the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Justice, investigating crimes involving federal employees.

If called to the witness stand, Vecchi is expected to testify as to the coercive and misleading effect of the way the government's investigative agents used when interviewing witnesses in this case, the two lawyers said.

In the U.S. government's renewed opposition, O'Malley said the defendants' motion was filed two business days before trial, which was then set for March 10, 2020.

O'Malley said the motion sought to introduce an expert witness into the trial, notwithstanding the fact that, at that point, the proposed expert apparently knew little to nothing about the case.

O'Malley said that same afternoon, the U.S. government requested the summary of the expert's opinion, basis and reasons for those opinions, as required by the Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure, but re-

ceived no response.

He said the court ordered the U.S. government to respond by March 9, the day before the then-trial date, and set the matter for a hearing one hour before jury selection was to begin on March 20.

At this point, O'Malley said, the only information available to the U.S. government regarding the proposed expert came from the defendants' motion, which at most appeared to speculate as to what the expert would eventually conclude.

"Accordingly, the government's sole point of opposition was timeliness," he said.

O'Malley said the March 10, 2020, hearing on the defendants' motion did not occur due to an avoidable delay, which also resulted in an eight-day delay of the trial, which was reset to March 18, 2020. O'Malley said the court also reset the motion hearing to March 12, 2020.

He said at the March 12 hearing, the U.S. government informed the court that it had requested but not received the required expert opinion summary. O'Malley said the defense explained that this was

because the proposed expert had not, in fact, even been formally retained, although the paperwork was pending.

He said the defense also informed the court and the U.S. government that it intended to file yet another motion, which turned out to be a motion seeking sanctions against the U.S. government for reaching out to the proposed expert over the weekend.

The court then continued the hearing regarding the proposed expert to March 25, 2020.

O'Malley said the defense promised to provide the summary to the U.S. government before March 25, but did not do so.

On March 16, the court vacated the trial and pending hearings due to an unavoidable delay, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

O'Malley said that, on March 18, defense counsel emailed the government requesting more time to submit the expert's report, noting that the proposed expert had not been able to focus on performing his analysis because he was, instead, drafting an affidavit in support of the motion for sanctions. He said the U.S. government agreed to extend

the deadline until March 26 and the defense counsel accepted the deadline and offered to draft a stipulation. He said the defense counsel neither did that nor provided the proposed expert's summary by the agreed-upon deadline.

On April 3, defense counsel emailed the U.S. government to ask whether the government would object to amending the protective order regarding grand jury material to allow the proposed expert to review the transcripts. O'Malley said the defense counsel also asked whether the U.S. government would object to the proposed expert seeing the material provided in discovery.

O'Malley said the prosecution did not object because, in its view, it was not yet decided that the proposed expert was part of the defense team, given that the court had yet to rule on the original motion, and the government had still not received the required summary.

He said that Banes responded by claiming, for the first time, that it was his proposed expert's inability to review the grand jury and discovery material that prevents him from completing his summa-

ry. O'Malley said if the court were to allow this, and thereby establish a precedent that defendants can wait until the very last second before seeking to introduce expert testimony, trials would become segmented, confused, and unnecessarily prolonged affairs.

The prosecutor said because defendants failed initially to provide timely notice of their intent to introduce expert testimony, and continue to defy the court's deadline to provide the U.S. government with their summary report, the court would be within its discretion to deny their motion to add the proposed expert to their witness list.

The charges against Efraim and Evelyn Atalig involve at least eight trips taken by the couple at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

The Ataligs are being charged jointly with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft from program receiving federal funds, wire fraud, and theft from program receiving federal funds. Both are also charged separately with false statement.

Manglona recently postponed the jury trial due to coronavirus pandemic.

Palau awarded \$2.7M in Compact infrastructure funds

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior has awarded \$2,685,610 in Compact Infrastructure grant funds to the Republic of Palau to maintain the Palau Compact Road and to purchase hardware for Palau’s new financial management system in addition to providing training and annual maintenance for the system.

“Interior Secretary David Bernhardt and I are pleased to provide this infrastructure support to the Government of Palau as agreed to under the Compact of Free Association agreement with Palau,” said Douglas W. Domenech, assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs. “I am proud of the support and the relationship that we share

with the people of Palau. The United States sees Palau as an essential part of a free and open Indo-Pacific region and is committed to Palau’s security and prosperity.”

The \$2,685,610 in Compact funding provided for under the Section 432 Review between the United States and Palau is divided as follows:

■ **Palau Compact Road maintenance:** \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2020. As provided for under the Compact Review Agreement, signed in 2018, Palau is scheduled to receive \$2,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2024.

■ **Financial Management System, Phase 2:** \$685,610 to procure hardware and cover the system maintenance fee, training, and other contractual ser-

vices necessary for the next two years to build and maintain the financial management system for the Palau National Government. The system supports all financial systems and operations across the Palau national government, including payroll, immigration, law enforcement, and other critical services.

The Palau Compact Road, provided for under the Compact of Free Association agreement between the United States and Palau (Public Law 99-658), was built and completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2007 at the cost of \$149 million. This 53-mile, circumferential road on Babeldaob Island provides important access to Palau’s largest island and facilitates opportunities for economic

development through improved transportation.

The subsequent Palau Compact Review Agreement, included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 which was signed as Public Law 115-141 by President Donald J. Trump on March 23, 2018, provided additional infrastructure, economic development, and trust fund support to Palau through fiscal year 2024. On Sept. 20, 2018, the United States and Palau governments signed a final agreement confirming uses of the funds and a schedule for disbursement through 2024. The Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs administers and manages these funds on behalf of the U.S. government. (PR)

Guam small business awarded \$1.9M contract for environmental services

ASAN, Guam—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas awarded last April 10 an indefinite-delivery indefinite-quantity contract, with a maximum amount of \$25 million, to Guam-based small business Landscape Management Systems, Inc. for environmental services, including hazardous waste, hazardous material, other regulated waste, and spill response at Joint Region Marianas.

“Environmental services constitute a large percentage of our mission-critical core

function at NAVFAC Marianas in support of JRM and all Guam installations,” said NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer Capt. Daniel Turner. “This contract award represents the hard work, dedication and great success of our acquisition and small business professionals in aligning critical Navy requirements with qualified industry partners [in] Guam.”

An initial task order valued at \$1.9 million is being awarded for mobilization and base period recurring work at

all supported components and tenant commands under JRM. The work to be performed is for operation of a conforming storage facility; management of less-than-90-day storage facilities; management of satellite accumulation sites and initial accumulation points; daily management, collection, and disposal of hazardous waste, hazardous material, and other regulated waste; occasional management, disposal, and collection of non-hazardous waste; sampling, testing, and laboratory analysis for hazard-

ous waste, regulated waste, and unknown waste determination; and oil and hazardous substance spill response, cleanup, sampling, laboratory analysis, and disposal.

Work for this task order is expected to be completed by April 2021. The term of the IDIQ contract is not to exceed five years with an expected completion date of April 2025. This contract was competitively procured via the Federal Business Opportunities website with two proposals received. (USN)



April 14, 1999

School money cut

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has moved closer to overhauling the government’s scholarship program after he signed a law imposing a cap on the financial aid that will be granted to on and off-island students for postsecondary education. Under Public Law 11-77, which amends the scholarship act put in place in 1990, financial assistance to students enrolled in Northern Marianas College or in universities in the United States or its territories will be pegged at \$15,000 annually per student. The amount will cover expenses for tuition, textbooks, board and lodging, transportation and other school fees for a period of up to five consecutive years.

CPA mulls over airline incentives

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is studying the possibility of providing incentives to all airlines in a move to stimulate traffic and revive the ailing tourism economy, said Carlos H. Salas, executive director. “We are making an analysis right now to quantify the incentives that we must give,” he said. The ports authority is looking at reducing the landing fees and passenger facility charge for existing airlines that will increase their seating capacity and carriers that will service new destinations. While emphasizing that the incentives are only temporary, Salas said he wants to make sure that CPA and the community will benefit from it not only the airlines. For example, in gauging the passenger growth, Salas said they have to agree what period would be used as a basis for comparison.

contract to C&A should have not taken place since the road paving contractor — Hawaiian Rock Products Corporation — had already included in its proposal the needed survey work for only \$8,339.

\$60M bond float stymied

Economic difficulties and higher prevailing interest rates are obstructing the prompt flotation of the tax-exempt \$60 million municipal bond, which drag the completion of major infrastructure projects in the Northern Marianas. Development Authority Board Chair John S. Tenorio said the government had to postpone the flotation of the municipal bond from March to June 2000 due to the higher interest rate prevailing in the U.S. market. Mr. Tenorio said interest rates normally increase by 30 basis points or by one percent during the March-May period, adding that floating the \$60 million bond this time would only stress the Commonwealth’s depleting coffers.

April 14, 2005

PSS buses support arts fest

Public School System associate commissioner David M. Borja said at least two of its nine school buses are going to be used during the Flame Tree Arts Festival this weekend. He said the festival committee sought Education’s assistance by lending its buses to help bring guests to the festival venue and to their respective hotels. Borja said that PSS immediately agreed since they have been participating in this grand event by providing the buses to some visitors. The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs would shoulder the cost of fuel during the entire operations.

April 14, 2000

Ex-DPW officials face legal action

The Office of the Public Auditor has recommended the filing of legal action against two former officials of the Department of Public Works for approving an allegedly anomalous land survey contract with a private company in 1997. Public Auditor Leo LaMotte also instructed the Department of Finance to initiate actions that would result in the recovery of \$164,534 which were improperly made to Tinian Road Resurfacing Project contractor Castro & Associates. According to the OPA report released yesterday, the awarding of the land survey

Commerce to go after ‘illegal’ poker arcades

The government will launch an all-out enforcement operation against illegal poker operators CNMI-wide to enhance collections and discourage the proliferation of unlicensed poker arcades in the Commonwealth. Finance Secretary Fermin M. Atalig and Commerce Secretary Andrew Salas signed a new memorandum of agreement yesterday, setting forth the specific functions of Finance that are transferred now to Commerce. Salas said that after 30 days, the government would know how many poker arcades are operating illegally.

THINGS TO KNOW

As of April 13, 2020. All information may change without prior notice. For corrections and additions to this list, send an email to editor@saipantribune.com or chevy_alipio@saipantribune.com, or call 235-6397 or 235-2440.

DCRM UPDATES

■ The Division of Coastal Resources Management provides an update on several programs and plans. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

USDA RESOURCES

■ The U.S. Department of Agriculture implements immediate measures to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by COVID-19. Read about it at https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_RD_SA_COVID19_ProgramImmediateActions04082020.pdf.

■ The U.S. Department of Agriculture expands provisions for lenders to offer temporary exceptions to payment deferrals for agency guaranteed loan programs. See full details at https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_RD_SA_COVID19_Guarantee_Loan_DeferralPayments04082020.pdf.

PREPARE DOCS NOW

Those planning to apply for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program should prepare these documents now:

- certification letter from their employer
- valid ID with photo

- passport
- copies of the latest paycheck stubs
- Social Security number

WHO UPDATE

■ Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

BANK HOURS

- Bank of Hawaii: Monday to Friday - 9am to 1pm (Saturdays closed)
- Bank of Guam Chalan Kanoa: Closed temporarily
- Bank of Guam Garapan: Monday to Friday - 9am-1pm; Saturday closed
- First Hawaiian Bank Oleai: Monday to Friday - 9am- 1pm; Saturday closed
- First Hawaiian Bank Gualo Rai: Monday to Friday - 9am- 1pm; Saturday closed

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

- USPS Chalan Kanoa: Monday to Friday - 8:30am-4pm; Sat 9am-12pm
- USPS San Vicente: Monday to Friday - 12pm-5:30pm; Sat 12pm-3pm

SUPERMARKETS

■ For a list of the status of open and closed stores and those with limited hours, go to https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fyRm2XtrIPg7hQ_XN_YbesQYP6lxVwghB_xARXz44xI/edit

RESTAURANTS

■ For a list of the status of open and closed restaurants and those with limited hours, go to https://docs.google.com/document/d/1O8TVIlgGVM-vXAT5a_o0Eac3tftLTjL2AV4i-Pem0Zqdo/edit

OTHER BUSINESS:

■ For a list of their status, go to <https://docs.google.com/document/d/15zg5hv22fhoKWoLQgasVb-bdioeJrpD5FjhdzgiBoW0/edit>

MEDICAL SERVICES

■ For a list of the status of open and closed medical services and those with limited hours, go to <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OGsdjdlau3mY8HABuqkioITq0j9Zr7L48FMpYdD8htU/edit>

HOTELS

■ For a partial list of the status of open and closed hotels and those with limited hours, go to https://docs.google.com/document/d/1O9fTmFzIsl-zev-7M6YbPS_xHiq4vNxrxUKIh-0v42GkE/edit

RESOURCES

■ Demystifying the CARES ACT: A primer for businesses. Plus Saipan Chamber of Commerce updates. See <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Demystifying-the-CARES-Act-and-Local-Updates.html?soid=1129193858340&aid=0EXsNhZzzis>

■ For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

www.saipantribune.com.

■ CommonHealth Care Corp. services. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Frequently-asked-questions about direct assistance under CARES Act. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Needing mental health tips? See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Announcement about re-opening of boat ramps and docks. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Announcement about re-opening of public beaches and pathways. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Avoid COVID-19 scams: Attorney General Edward Manibusan issues alert of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) scams. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

Settlement Fund office hours

The Settlement Fund office has reduced its service hours to half day. We are still restricting access to the public and will continue to receive and respond to inquiries by phone, fax and email only from 8am to 1pm, Monday-Friday. Fund staff will be available to assist members only by telephone, fax, or email. Contact Information for the Settlement Fund: tel: (670) 322-3863; fax: (670) 664-8080; email: info@nmisf.com. (PR)

Source: Compiled by Saipan Tribune/Chevy Alipio

Guam worries as sailors from virus-hit ship take over hotels

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP) — People in Guam are used to a constant U.S. military presence on the strategic Pacific island, but some are nervous as hundreds of sailors from a coronavirus-stricken Navy aircraft carrier flood into hotels for quarantine. Officials insist they have enforced strict safety measures.

An outbreak aboard the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* began in late March and has thrust the Navy into a leadership crisis after the ship's commander distributed a letter urging faster action to protect his sailors. Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly fired Capt. Brett E. Crozier and then assailed him during a speech on the ship in Guam, saying Crozier was either "too naive or too stupid" to be in charge of an aircraft carrier. Modly resigned Tuesday after facing blowback and after publicly apologizing for his comments about Crozier.

The carrier has been docked in the U.S. territory for more than a week as the 4,865-person crew is tested for the virus and moved ashore. More than 580 sailors have been confirmed infected. One was hospitalized Thursday in intensive care, said Gen. John Hyten, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

More than 1,700 sailors who have tested negative are isolating in hotels, while the sick remain on base, Navy officials said.

"Our people are getting slapped in the face," said Hope Cristobal, who worries officials are making promises about safety they won't keep.

She lives less than a quarter-mile from hotels in Tumon, Guam's version of Hawaii's popular Waikiki neighborhood, saying, "We don't know exactly where they're being housed."



In this April 7, 2020, photo released by the U.S. Navy, sailors assigned to the aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt* move ready to eat meals for sailors who have tested negative for COVID-19 and are being taken to local hotels in an effort to implement social distancing at Naval Base Guam. **AP**

Mary Rhodes, president of the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association, declined to identify the hotels but said as many as 10 have been set aside to house up to 4,000 sailors. Seven of them had already stopped taking reservations and seen a dramatic drop in visitors as airlines canceled flights, she said.

Guam's hotels frequently host military members, and the Department of Defense controls about a third of the island, which is 3,800 miles (6,115 kilometers) west of

Honolulu and a crucial, strategic hub for U.S. forces in the Pacific.

Each sailor is staying in a room stocked with two weeks' worth of linens, towels and water, Rhodes said. There is no contact with hotel workers, and only military police and medical teams can visit.

The Navy has sent masks, gloves and other safety equipment to the hotels, where employees make food that military personnel deliver, Rhodes said.

Not including the sailors,



A Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency vehicle pulls up to a security checkpoint positioned on the road leading to the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa in Tumon, Guam on Thursday, April 9, 2020. **AP**



In this photo taken April 7 2020, provided by the U.S. Navy, sailors and staff assigned to the aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt* listen as Vice Adm. William Merz, commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet, answers questions during a visit to the ship at Naval Base Guam. **AP**



In this April 3, 2020, file photo, the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*, a Nimitz-class nuclear powered aircraft carrier, is docked along Kilo Wharf of Naval Base Guam. **AP**



In this April 7, 2020, photo, released by the U.S. Navy, sailors assigned to the aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt*, who have tested negative for COVID-19 and are asymptomatic, are checked at local hotels in Guam in an effort to implement social distancing. **AP**

vast majority of people on the island are Catholic.

The sailors' quarantine is actually benefiting some smaller hotels, said Rhodes of the hotel association. The Navy has taken over hotels with more than 300 rooms, and other guests have been moved to smaller properties that are struggling amid cancellations.

Rhodes said "necessary measures" are in place to safeguard the public.

Those assurances aren't enough for Cristobal and others. She said the sailors are adding to an already stressful situation: "I have shortness of breath, and I'm wondering if it's COVID or is it my anxiety."

For most, the virus causes mild or moderate symptoms,

such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with other health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Some are urging the governor to reconsider allowing the sailors to stay in hotels, including I Hagan Famalaoan Guahan, a group that supports women who are Chamorro, the indigenous people of the Mariana Islands, which include Guam.

"Being negative today doesn't mean that they won't be in a week or so," the group said in a statement. "The decision to house them in the middle of our community is playing a game of chance with the health of our people."



A Judiciary of Guam deputy marshal and a Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency officer monitor a security checkpoint posted in the driveway entrance to the Hyatt Regency Guam in Tumon, Guam on Thursday, April 9, 2020. **H**

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 73

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,

Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI

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EDITORIAL

Scammers are working overtime during the coronavirus. Here's what you can do to protect yourself

Sadly, it seems inevitable that for every catastrophe this country faces, there are lowlives that crawl out of the woodwork to try to take advantage.

This pandemic is no exception. But it's particularly pernicious now when the whole country is in a collective fight for our health and so many of us are struggling through a shuttered economy.

Law enforcement agencies tell us that thieves are working overtime. In this moment of crisis, when we're at our most vulnerable, scammers are aggressively trying to take more from us.

It's a sad commentary that we've become accustomed to this element of our society. Right now, though, if they are successful, they direct resources away from the focus on activities that will help us get back to normal.

If there's some encouraging news in this situation, it's that U.S. Attorney Erin Nealy Cox tells us that the Department of Justice, along with state and local officials, are on to these criminals. They're working just as hard and aggressively to root them out and prosecute them.

"It's particularly egregious because the whole world is dealing with this crisis," Nealy Cox told us. "To add to that the possibility that you could be victimized—it's horrible. It's adding to worries for folks who already have enough to worry about."

The best defense to avoid being taken advantage of? Arm yourself with information and report incidents to authorities.

The feds are seeing cases in two buckets: COVID-19-specific cases and those that are emerging now that federal stimulus money is starting to flow.

Here are a few of the most common cases they're seeing:

- Phony companies making claims about their fake products, such as test kits and treatments.
- Price gouging and hoarding.
- Fake mobile testing sites that take people's money but administer fraudulent screenings.
- Websites claiming to provide stimulus funds when consumers enter in their bank account numbers.
- Unsolicited callers claiming to be from the IRS threatening people with jail for back taxes if they don't provide their bank accounts and other information for payments.

The last one should raise red flags immediately. Nealy Cox reminds that the IRS is never going to call, email or text threats to you in this manner.

An IRS fraud office has been set up in the federal courthouse in Dallas to investigate these cases. And because these bands of miscreants work across state lines, there's a National Center for Disaster Fraud to try to combat them.

We're glad authorities are actively trying to prosecute these scofflaws. It's possible to put a dent in their activities. Still, it's a shame that we have to deal with these folks on top of everything else. They erode trust, and trust is a precious commodity right now.

Report fraud related to this crisis to the National Center for Disaster Fraud hotline by calling 1-866-720-5721. You can also reach out by email at disaster@leo.gov.

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RISKING
THEIR
LIVES TO
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

DOCTOR

PARAMEDIC

NURSE

WISCONSIN
VOTERS

WISCONSIN
MAY 2020
MICK SMITH
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE / AP

China's coronavirus statistics aren't the real problem

As the coronavirus spreads around the world, U.S. officials who downplayed the risk have repeatedly blamed China's fake data and deceptive practices for the outbreak. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo said in March that poor information from China has "put us behind the curve." Earlier this month, several House Republicans sent a letter to Pompeo stating that "misinformation from China over the past several months has severely crippled global action to combat the global pandemic."

China's data very likely understate the true number of infections and deaths, and Chinese-style authoritarianism silenced early reports of the outbreak, costing China and the world valuable time to stop the coronavirus' spread.

While China's reporting delays and obfuscations now make it a convenient scapegoat for inadequate preparation in the U.S., its numbers and actions made clear that the coronavirus was communicable and dangerous enough to overwhelm a country's health system if not swiftly contained.

The time will come for a full accounting, but the current obsession with China's statistics denies the reality that some prudent governments—such as South Korea and Taiwan—recognized the seriousness of the situation in China months ago and took swift action to coordinate testing and tracing measures that protected their people. China's own decisions in late January to prevent exit from and impose strict quarantines in Wuhan and Hubei province, likewise, signaled the dire threat.

A classified U.S. intelligence report has concluded that China hid information about some infections and deaths, minimizing the apparent scale and lethality of the coronavirus outbreak.

China sent a warning flare Feb. 12 when it reported more than 15,000 new cases based on clinical symptoms, indicating insufficient testing capabilities to keep up with the outbreak in Wuhan. More recent reports suggest that by the end of that month, Chinese authorities had found more than 43,000 asymptomatic cases among those quarantined, which were not included in official counts.

Had China published more complete rates of infection earlier on, it is not obvious that such data alone would have convinced skeptics to take the coronavirus more seriously.

While reports of larger numbers of infected people would have shown the virus' infectiousness, reporting asymptomatic cases could also have reduced estimates of its lethality, supporting assertions that it's like the flu. Until March 31, China's official tally of "confirmed cases" did not include asymptomatic cases, which were rarely mentioned. One unfortunate consequence of this practice was the World Health Organization's late February report that asymptomatic transmission was rare.

China, like every other country facing a major outbreak, is



By JEREMY L. WALLACE and JESSICA CHEN WEISS
Los Angeles Times

Jeremy L. Wallace, an associate professor of government at Cornell University, is the author of Cities and Stability: Urbanization, Redistribution, and Regime Survival in China. Jessica Chen Weiss, also an associate professor of government at Cornell, is the author of Powerful Patriots: Nationalist Protest in China's Foreign Relations.

missing many asymptomatic cases from its counts because most asymptomatic people have not been tested. There is still great uncertainty about the transmission of the virus, not just in China but across Europe, with some estimating that millions have already been infected in Britain, Spain and Italy.

Estimates of low lethality in Germany, for example, reflect early action and more widespread detection of asymptomatic cases compared with the Spanish or Italian outbreaks, where case fatality is much higher.

As for reported deaths, China's official toll should serve as a minimal estimate; recent projections based on crematoriums running around the clock and the delivery of funeral urns suggest a higher number, but those indicators are not a reliable basis for determining the scale of undercounting.

The difficulty of estimating the true death toll is not unique to China; France recently added more than 2,000 deaths to its totals that occurred in nursing homes rather than hospitals. Patterns of all-cause mortality data in Italy and Spain suggest that even their large tallies for deaths from COVID-19 are underestimates.

Even if the numbers out of China were spuriously low, there was enough information to indicate that the coronavirus had the potential to become a devastating pandemic.

After locking down Wuhan and most of Hubei province on Jan. 23, the Chinese authorities quarantined at-risk people before they tested positive or exhibited symptoms to reduce further spread. The government also promised free testing and treatment available nationwide and deployed enormous levels of resources, workers and medical equipment to the hardest-hit areas.

See CHINA'S on next page

LITERARY NOOK**By JOEY CONNOLLY***Special to the Saipan Tribune*

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.



Dream: Reality Enigma Adenosine Triphosphate Meaning Sonnets

N.I.G.H.T.: Nightmare Indigestion Gastro Heartburn Tales

It was probably pickles radish and cold ice creams that gave me heartburn what some call indigestion it became a nightmare ruining my food dreams my thoughts turn to puke at fried pickles suggestion chronic dyspepsia at every single baseball game warm beer chili dogs ketchup onions and mustard bags of spicy hot corn chips made my mouth aflame a fried dill pickle dipped in chocolate vanilla custard might have been pickled eggs from the jar at the bar or pizza and chili fries covered with cheese and hot garlic sauce

or that bag of jalapeno beef jerky I chewed in the car the Mighty Sparrow sings "da Man With the Pepper Sauce Is Boss"

now all day and all night long burping and farting its either heartburn or more indigestion starting.

Delizioso Daydreams

Don't confuse delicious food fun taste with humble pies cookie crumb crust cream puff and sweet summer berry attraction to all ants bees wasps and blue bottleneck flies strawberry rhubarb apple and white chocolate cherry It is those comestibles we live by a basic staple of our life bread rice noodles fish meat cheese vegetables and fruit for grandpa grandma children brothers sisters and wife potatoes baked boiled mashed smashed a staple root a chowder a sautee a chicken broth gumbo or fricasee pancakes with real maple syrup papaya upside down cake at breakfast lunch dinner and snack time go inside of me washed down with water wine or beer make no mistake bring it all to me as I drool my big mouth open wide and lift this food by chopstick spoon or fork to my inside.

Double Duty Daydreams

Double up on the mashed potatoes and gravy double down on your big bet at the cockfight double trouble bowls of beans pinto or navy double rings around the moon last night on that waffle cone a butterscotch double dip on trampoline a backward twist and double flip on the stick shift column a quick double clutch double your pleasure double your fun gum bubble Lily is out on the levee doing a double twist gulp that sweet icy lemonade on the double a double decker cheeseburger is hard to resist here come twin brothers guarantee double trouble both splishing and splashing in a big mud puddle.

CHINA'S*From Page 8*

The magnitude of the danger was abundantly clear two months ago from the numbers reported and actions taken in China. South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore all imposed swift measures to slow the outbreak even before the WHO declared an international public health emergency Jan. 30.

Unfortunately, during this same time, political leaders in the United States were dithering and minimizing the severity of the crisis.

Rather than follow the example of South Korea, Taiwan or Germany to get ahead of the curve, the Trump administration worried more about managing "the numbers" than the health of Americans.

America needs a stronger safety net in good times as well as bad

Andy Harris, the conservative Maryland congressman, repeatedly joined his Republican colleagues in their many efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act in the House of Representatives. But look what Harris posted on his Facebook page on March 31: "Maryland has announced a special health insurance enrollment period for uninsured individuals to help cover Coronavirus treatment costs. People can enroll until April 15th. More info can be found here ..." Harris then provided a link to the state's health insurance exchange.

Imagine that: A hardheaded fellow who has made opposition to the ACA a central theme of his political life suggesting that constituents take advantage of it. I guess it took a pandemic to bring him around, but better late than never, right?

Maryland is now one of 11 states, plus the District of Columbia, that took the wise step of reopening their exchanges because of the pandemic. As for our fellow Americans in states that offer insurance through the federal exchange, Healthcare.gov, they're stuck with Donald Trump. The president decided not to reopen the Obamacare markets for 38 states, a move that would have allowed people who lost their jobs to easily get insurance or those without insurance to get it at a time of terrifying uncertainty.

But that is how this president rolls. He does everything he can to subvert the ACA and makes no exception even in a time of national emergency.

Opposition to the ACA—the time, words and money spent on trying to kill it—represents everything that's been bad about American politics: superpartisanship and polarization ("If you're for it, I'm against it"); sustained attacks on the country's social safety net during a time of growing income inequality; the lack of empathy among wealthy members of Congress and the special interest groups that lobby them; and the defeat of common sense.

Look at the record: A vast field of conservatives and libertarians have offered a sustained attack against the law going back to its promulgation 10 years ago.

Several Republican governors and legislators refused to take federal money from the law's Medicaid expansion, depriving their poorest and most vulnerable citizens of government-supported access to health care. Republicans refuse to fix Obamacare where it needs fixing. Trump claims he has a replacement plan, but offers nothing. And the unrelenting legal challenges raise the prospect, perhaps a year from now, of the Supreme Court of the United States overturning the ACA—throwing it out—in the aftermath (let's hope) of the worst health crisis in a century.

None of this makes sense for the country.

And on a political level, the Republican opposition always struck me as foolish. It was a conservative think tank that de-

By DAN RODRICKS*The Baltimore Sun*

Dan Rodricks is a long-time columnist for the Baltimore Sun.



vised the market model 30 years ago, yet Republicans wanted no part of Obamacare. That means they get no credit for the good it does. I once estimated that about 145,000 people who live in Maryland's 1st congressional district had benefited from the law—despite Harris, their representative, not because of him.

Health insurance isn't the only place where holes in the country's safety net are being exposed in the pandemic.

Consider a fact I came across while reading an analysis of the \$2.2 trillion disaster relief bill (the CARES Act) authorized by Congress: "During the Great Recession, the share of jobless workers receiving unemployment insurance benefits peaked at about 40 percent."

That comes from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. It means only four in 10 Americans who were thrown out of work in the last downturn managed to get help from their states. That's because each state has its own unemployment insurance program, and eligibility varies widely. While the median benefit is \$366 per week nationally, in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arizona, Alabama and Tennessee it's below \$250, and below \$300 in another seven states.

Now, in the midst of a crisis, Congress has come up with a more generous contribution to the states for millions of unemployed Americans. Workers who lose their jobs but are, for some reason, ineligible for their state's program can get up to 39 weeks of benefits through the end of the year, and the CARES Act provides a \$600 weekly benefit increase through July 31.

That's a strong response. But it took a national emergency to recognize the inadequacies of the current system.

The criticism of the response—that it's so generous Americans won't want to go back to work—insults every man and woman who already works hard and lives paycheck to paycheck and suddenly finds no paycheck at all. But the right's war on the social safety net has been built on such prejudice, and it persists, even in national emergency.

The vast majority of Americans do not want to be on the dole. We want to work for a livable wage. We want affordable health care when we need it. And we want a smart government that protects and supports us—as much in good times as bad.

Renewable energy must be the future, if we are to have one at all

The world still relies far too much on burning fossil fuels for energy, but an annual accounting of new energy sources carries some heartening news: Nearly 75% of new electricity generation capacity last year involved renewable energy—an all-time record.

Yes, the world still relies too much on burning fossil fuel to create energy. But the 2019 annual report from the International Renewable Energy Agency shows that the world continues to move in the right direction, at least in some areas, as it has for the past decade.

Carbon Brief, a British-based nonprofit covering climate science, notes that too many countries are still building too many coal-fired power plants, particularly in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Over the last 20 years, the world—driven by China and India—has doubled its coal-fired capacity to about 2,045 gigawatts, Carbon Brief reports, adding that another 200 gigawatts in coal-fired capacity are under construction, with 300 gigawatts more on planning boards. That growth contrasts with significant net reductions in coal-fired capacity through the retirement of plants in the U.S. and Europe, and a slowdown of new construction.

Notably, much of that coal power is being replaced by natural-gas-fueled plants, which produce far less greenhouse gas emissions than coal plants but nonetheless contribute to global warming.

So the faster the world can minimize reliance on burning fossil fuels, the better chance we have at limiting the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius over preindustrial levels, the limit scientists (yes there are such people walking among us) say we need to observe if we are to avoid the worst effects of our profligate carbon emissions.

By SCOTT MARTELLE*Los Angeles Times*

According to Carbon Brief, observing that 1.5-degree Celsius limit will require us to reduce global coal use by 80% this decade.

The current coronavirus pandemic has, at least temporarily, made a significant impact on greenhouse gas emissions. But that reflects a stalled economy rather than smart energy consumption choices. The pandemic is a naturally occurring threat to humans, as were SARS and MERS before it. Global warming, by contrast, is being driven by human behavior; it is a self-inflicted crisis.

We can best address the climate crisis by changing practices, by converting our global economy from fossil fuels to renewable sources, by using the force of our collective will to change our collective behavior and reduce the damage our actions inflict on the environment, which we rely on for our very survival.

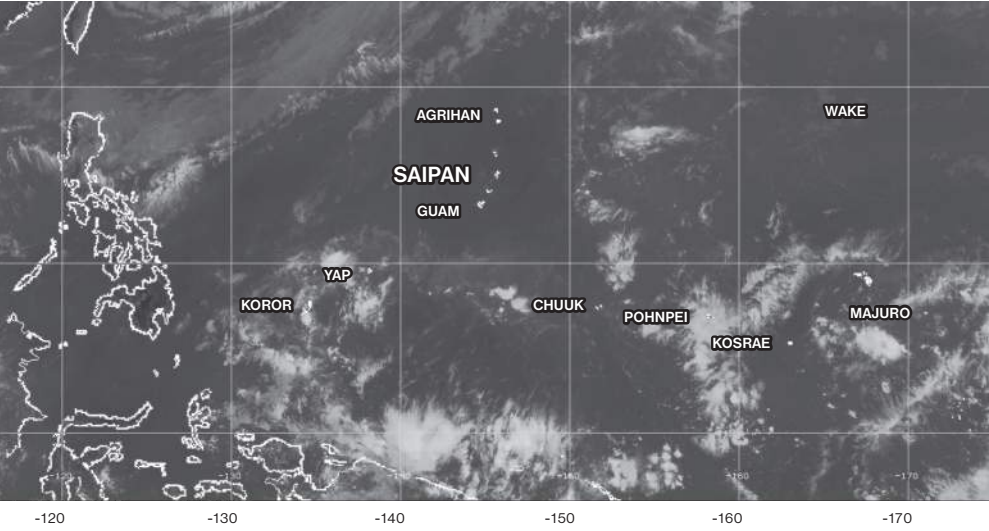
The stats that show we are moving in the right direction, albeit it too slowly, are a positive sign during these trying days.

But they are also a further spur to action. We can see where decisions, policies and actions lead to positive effects, but also where continued self-destructive actions—beginning with burning coal—imperil us all.

And that threat lies far beyond the reach of a vaccine.

The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----|----------|-----|--------|-----|----------|-----|
| TODAY | | WEDNESDAY | | THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 89° | 75° | 89° | 76° | 87° | 77° | 88° | 77° | 88° | 77° |
| YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE | | | | | | | | | |



PICTURE TIME: 6:11 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows some clouds and a few showers moving through the Marianas as a surface trough drifts westward. A stationary trade-wind disturbance remains well to the east, near 155E with deep convection rooted near Pohnpei. To the northwest, a cold front is making its way southeastward over the Philippine Sea. Buoys and altimetry show seas of 3 to 4 feet in the area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF
APRIL 13, 2020



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

- Cashier & Customer Service**
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 664-4282
Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org
or via phone by calling toll free 1-(855)-729-2282



Department of Finance

- Division of Revenue & Taxation**
CASHIER ONLY
Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tel: (670) 664-1000
- Division of Customs Services**
 - Airport:** OPEN DAILY
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 - Seaport:** Monday - Friday
Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 - Chalan Kanoa Post Office:**
Monday - Friday: 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday: 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM



Department of Public Lands

- CASHIER ONLY
Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53/54



CNMI State Medicaid Agency

Eligibility staff are available to answer calls on Tuesday - Thursday from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882.
Accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office.
Medicaid application & renewal/redetermination forms must be original.
Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at: www.medicaid.cnmi.mp



Department of Public Works

- Solid Waste Management Division**
 - Lower Base Transfer Station**
Open all week except Wednesday
7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-2745
 - Morpi Landfill**
Open all week except Wednesday
7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-2761



Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

- Available via phone or email only on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-6537/38
Email: maryann@ovrgov.net



Office of the Attorney General

- Civil & Criminal Divisions**
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tel: (670) 237-7500/7600



Office of the Public Defender

- Monday - Friday
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Tel: (670) 234-6503

| MICRONESIA | | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | 87° / 77° | |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° | |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 87° / 79° | |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 87° / 81° | |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 85° / 79° | |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 85° / 80° | |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 85° / 80° | |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:03 AM | 6:31 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:02 AM | 6:31 PM |
| Thursday | 6:02 AM | 6:31 PM |
| Friday | 6:01 AM | 6:31 PM |
| Saturday | 6:00 AM | 6:31 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | - | 11:19 AM | - |
| Wednesday | 12:44 AM | 12:14 PM | - |
| Thursday | 1:34 AM | 1:07 PM | - |
| Friday | 2:19 AM | 1:59 PM | - |
| Saturday | 3:01 AM | 2:48 PM | - |

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| AROUND THE GLOBE | | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| Auckland | Windy | 64° / 57° | |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | 81° / 52° | |
| Hong Kong | Partly Cloudy | 73° / 68° | |
| Honolulu | Showers | 82° / 72° | |
| London | Mostly Sunny | 55° / 37° | |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 77° / 55° | |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 91° / 79° | |
| Melbourne | Mostly Sunny | 75° / 63° | |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 79° | |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 58° / 42° | |
| Osaka | Mostly Cloudy | 64° / 50° | |
| Paris | Sunny | 57° / 41° | |
| Busan | Cloudy | 64° / 48° | |
| Rome | Showers | 70° / 48° | |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | 81° / 52° | |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 68° / 48° | |
| Seoul | Sunny | 66° / 39° | |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | 66° / 52° | |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | 59° / 42° | |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| 1:46 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.77 | |
| 7:11 AM | LOW TIDE | 1.26 | |
| 11:30 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.64 | |
| 7:15 PM | LOW TIDE | -0.01 | |

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF
APRIL 13, 2020



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
Accepting Calls From Existing Customers Only
Tel: (670) 287-1475
- Division of Youth Services (DYS) On-Call**
Saipan: (670) 285-2780 / 287-2781 / 287-1773
Tinian: (670) 287-3268
Rota: (670) 287-2553
- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)**
For inquiries regarding parent eligibility requirements for CCDF Program:
Tel: (670) 783-8571 / (670) 783-8572
Email: dccajguerrero@gmail.com / ccdf.jrosario@gmail.com
- Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture (CCAC)**
For Recovery Arts Grant Application Submissions. Grant Guidelines are available at <http://www.cnmiartscouncil.org>
Tel.: (670) 287-4585
Email: parkeryobei@gmail.com
- Historic Preservation Office (HPO)**
For Processing of Federal 106 Consultations Call
Tel: (670) 789-1986
Email: rchong.cnmihpo@gmail.com



Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)

Benefit Pick Up: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Application Pick Up: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Application Submission:
Anytime via Drop-Box

Application Inquiries:
Tel: (670) 237-2801/2802

To download the NAP application and other forms go to dcca.gov.mp
Email: support@cnminap.gov.mp

Business

Saipan Mango Six Café offers take-out

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Mango Six Café located in Dan Dan is a crowd favorite for both local residents and tourists alike since it opened on Saipan in 2015. Last month, it was one of the businesses that closed temporarily to help the community mitigate the spread of the COVID-19. Last week, Saipan Mango Six Café opened once again for take-out services only.

“We temporarily closed in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 and we used those times researching how to solve the safety problems of customers and employees,” owner Sun Moon Ahn said.

“Noticing that the pandemic situation here on Saipan has been a little safer and well controlled by the government, we considered the requests of many of our regular customers to open and that is why we are ready to serve once again,” Ahn added.

Saipan Mango Six Café serves a variety of food such as burgers, French fries, pretzels, pancakes, cakes, and a few bread.

“The most popular food that we have are the pretzels which are freshly baked in front of customers. We do not scrimp on ingredients and put a good amount of cheese which is perfect for cheese-lovers. Most of our sauces are home-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Mango Six Café serves a variety of food such as burgers, French fries, pretzels, pancakes, cakes, and a few bread. Beverages include coffee and delicious smoothies.

OPEC, oil nations agree to nearly 10M barrel cut amid coronavirus

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—OPEC, Russia and other oil-producing nations on Sunday finalized an unprecedented production cut of nearly 10 million barrels, or a tenth of global supply, in hopes of boosting crashing prices amid the coronavirus pandemic and a price war, officials said.

“This could be the largest reduction in production from OPEC for perhaps a decade, maybe longer,” said U.S. Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette, who credited President Donald Trump’s personal involvement in getting dueling parties to the table and helping to end a price war between Saudi Arabia and Russia.

Oil prices have collapsed as the coronavirus and the COVID-19 illness it causes have largely halted global travel and slowed down other energy-chugging sectors such as manufacturing. It has devastated the oil industry in the U.S., which now pumps more crude than any other country.

But some producers have been reluctant to ease supply. The cartel and other nations on Sunday agreed to allow Mexico to cut only 100,000 barrels a month, a

sticking point for an accord initially reached Friday after a marathon video conference between 23 nations. The nations together agreed to cut 9.7 million barrels a day throughout May and June.

The group reached the deal just hours before Asian markets reopened Monday and as international benchmark Brent crude traded at just over \$31 a barrel and American shale producers struggle.

Video aired by the Saudi-owned satellite channel Al-Arabiya showed the moment that Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, a son of King Salman, assented to the deal.

“I go with the consent, so I agree,” the prince said, chuckling, drawing a round of applause from those on the video call.

But it had not been smiles and laughs for weeks after the so-called OPEC+ group of OPEC members and other nations failed in March to reach an agreement on production cuts, sending prices tumbling. Saudi Arabia sharply criticized Russia days earlier over what it described as comments critical of the kingdom, which finds itself trying to appease Trump, a longtime OPEC critic.

made containing less chemical seasoning to store for a good amount of time,” Ahn said.

“As for our beverages, we have a few specialties, that includes coffees and smoothies....we use real fruits in all of our smoothies that gives it a natural fruit flavor, and also very healthy. Each drink has their own unique recipe that provides a new and unique taste...our coffee is made using an Italian espresso machine using coffee extract which makes the quality great. Our menu is made-to-order and that is what’s special about Saipan Mango Six—we serve them hot and fresh,” Ahn added.

According to Ahn, while

maintaining operations during the pandemic, Saipan Mango Six Café gets its energy to keep going from its loyal customers. “We would like to thank the community for always remembering and visiting us. We continuously think of how we can help repay such loyalty during this difficult time.”

“Future plans include offer-

ing food delivery and we are working on it. We hope everyone is healthy and does not lose hope so we can overcome this crisis,” he added.

Saipan Mango Six Café is open from 9am to 6pm for take-out. To place an order, call (670) 670-234-0707 or visit them on Facebook: Mango Six Saipan.

Stores try to stay relevant while their doors are closed

NEW YORK (AP)—Long before there was a global coronavirus pandemic, brick-and-mortar retailers struggled to get people to walk through their doors instead of shopping online.

Now those retailers are faced with an even more Herculean task: how to stay on people’s minds—and more importantly their pocket-books—when many of their store doors are closed.

More than 250,000 stores like Macy’s, Nordstrom and Nike that sell non-essential merchandise have temporarily shuttered since mid-March in response to the pandemic. That’s 60% of overall U.S. retail square footage, according to Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail.

“Retail has hung a closed sign on the door literally and metaphorically,” Saunders said. “This is the most catastrophic crisis that retail has faced—worse than the financial crisis in 2008, worse than 9/11. Almost overnight, the retail economy shifted from being about things people want to things that they need.”

Some retailers have responded to the challenge by coming up with creative ways to stay relevant. Nike, for instance, introduced workout apps in China when the coronavirus first surfaced there, resulting in an 80% increase in users within the quarter and a 30% increase in online sales. It’s now pushing a similar campaign in the U.S. and Europe.

Yoga pants maker Lululemon is holding online classes in North America and Europe after gaining thousands of new followers in China on WeChat. Lululemon CEO Calvin McDonald told analysts during a recent call that during its first week of closures in the U.S., it saw nearly 170,000 customers join Lululemon for its live classes.

Small businesses are also pivoting in order to hold onto customers. Camp, a new toy chain that set itself apart from online retailers by doubling down on the physical experience, is hosting virtual birthday parties and creating curated gift boxes now that its five stores have gone dark. Politics & Prose, a popular Washington D.C. bookstore, was also

forced to temporarily close and is now starting to stream author talks online and offering a curbside pickup service.

“Many bookstores are known as havens for comfort and reassurance in difficult times,” said Bradley Graham, co-owner of the bookstore. “But a pandemic is not like other crises. In a medical crisis like this, the idea of bringing people together becomes an anathema.”

Even discounters and wholesale clubs like Walmart and Costco that remain open so customers can still buy essential items like groceries and toilet paper have had to shift their offerings to focus on household goods while ignoring the racks of trendy clothing elsewhere in their stores.

STOCK
PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
23,719.37
+285.80
1.22%

S&P
2,789.82
+39.84
1.45%

NASDAQ
8,153.58
+62.67
0.77%

EXCHANGE RATES

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------|------------------|----------|
| Hong Kong Dollar | 7.75261 | Russian Ruble | 73.1233 |
| Australian Dollar | 1.57751 | Singapore Dollar | 1.41664 |
| British Pound | 0.803 | South Korean Won | 1216.77 |
| Canadian Dollar | 1.39451 | Swiss Franc | 0.965431 |
| Chinese Yuan | 7.04739 | Taiwan Dollar | 30.1075 |
| Euro | 0.9144 | Thailand Baht | 32.7518 |
| Indian Rupee | 76.3560 | | |
| Japanese Yen | 108.48 | | |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 4.32259 | | |
| New Zealand Dollar | 1.64701 | | |
| Philippine Peso | 50.6226 | | |

Nation

Older states grapple with fear, isolation and medical care

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—This isn't the way Betsy Steen and her husband wanted to spend their golden years: Hunkered down at home, living with fear and isolation.

Steen, 76, and her husband David, 75, both take immunosuppressant medications, placing them at high risk if they contract the coronavirus. They try to keep positive, but it's hard to escape the flood of bad news.

"It's just surreal," the retired teacher said from her Bowdoinham home. "It's kind of like a dream. Every once in a while, you wake up and say that's real."

States with older popula-

tions carry special worries during the deadly pandemic: Loneliness takes an emotional and physical toll on fragile residents. Delivering food and medicine to the homes of isolated shut-ins presents an enormous challenge. Rural hospitals, meanwhile, worry about overwhelmed emergency rooms if the virus continues to spread.

In Maine, behind the idyllic scenes of lighthouses and lobster boats, all of those problems are intensified with the nation's oldest and most rural population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

"Here's the thing: You have a lot of folks who are isolated,

who cannot get out, who don't drive. How are they connected? Who's checking in on them?" said Lori Parham, AARP's state director.

Even before the pandemic, Maine's challenging demographics were exacerbated by a nursing shortage and health care consolidation, which left fewer medical services in New England's poorest and whitest state. The same backdrop crosses economic and racial lines in large cities such as Chicago, New York, New Orleans and Milwaukee whose black populations disproportionately suffer from poverty and reduced health care ac-

cess, making them vulnerable to the virus.

All told, Maine has only 300 intensive care unit beds and about 330 conventional hospital ventilators for a population that includes about 276,000 residents 65 or older. So far, Maine's hospitalization rate for the coronavirus is a third higher than the national average, said Dr. Dora Anne Mills, chief health improvement officer at MaineHealth.

"I hope people are staying home because it's our only hope. We're doing everything we can. But holy cow, there are limits," said Steven Michaud of the Maine Hospital

Association, who acknowledged he's "terrified" by some of the things he has learned about the virus.

The Maine National Guard is working to create additional health care capacity. As of Sunday, more than 600 people had tested positive and nearly 20 people had died from the virus in Maine.

Around the world, seniors have been hard-hit by COVID-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus. For most people, the new virus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and those with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Many seniors are more wor-

ried about isolation and loneliness than the virus as they face the prospect of being sequestered for weeks.

Gayle Sprague, who lives alone in Machias, 90 miles from the closest hospital with an intensive care unit, said she's frustrated because she can't see her 3-month-old great-grandson.

"I'm starting to go stir crazy," the 83-year-old admitted. "I'm going nuts. I'm a people person. It's just terrible."

Ditto for Jerry Horn, who lives alone with no cellphone, no computer and no television in Sanford. Now there's no knitting group, no YMCA, no square dancing, no library—the things she did for fun, she said.

"It's kind of depressing. I can go out for walk, but that's it," Horn, 79, said.



In this April 1, 2020 photo, Betsy and David Sheen are joined by their dogs as they walk up their driveway after getting the mail at their home in Bowdoinham, Maine.

Nursing home deaths soar past 3,600 in alarming surge

NEW YORK (AP)—More than 3,600 deaths nationwide have been linked to coronavirus outbreaks in nursing homes and long-term care facilities, an alarming rise in just the past two weeks, according to the latest count by The Associated Press.

Because the federal government has not been releasing a count of its own, the AP has kept its own running tally based on media reports and state health departments. The latest count of at least 3,621 deaths is up from about 450 deaths just 10 days ago.

But the true toll among the 1 million mostly frail and elderly people who live in such facilities is likely much higher, experts say, because most state counts don't include those

who died without ever being tested for COVID-19.

Outbreaks in just the past few weeks have included one at a nursing home in suburban Richmond, Virginia, that has killed 42 and infected more than 100, another at nursing home in central Indiana that has killed 24 and infected 16, and one at a veteran's home in Holyoke, Mass., that has killed 38, infected 88 and prompted a federal investigation. This comes weeks after an outbreak at a nursing home in the Seattle suburb of Kirkland that has so far claimed 43 lives.

And those are just the outbreaks we know about. Most states provide only total numbers of nursing home deaths and don't give details of specific outbreaks.

Notable among them is the nation's leader, New York, which accounts for 1,880 nursing home deaths out of about 96,000 total residents but has so far declined to detail specific outbreaks, citing privacy concerns.

Experts say nursing home deaths may keep climbing because of chronic staffing shortages that have been made worse by the coronavirus crisis, a shortage of protective supplies and a continued lack of available testing.

And the deaths have skyrocketed despite steps taken by the federal government in mid-March to bar visitors, cease all group activities, and require that every worker be screened for fever or respiratory symptoms at every shift.

But an AP report earlier this month found that infections were continuing to find their way into nursing homes because such screenings didn't catch people who were infected but asymptomatic. Several large outbreaks were blamed on such spreaders, including infected health workers who worked at several different nursing home facilities.

This past week, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that regulates nursing homes issued recommendations urging nursing homes to use separate staffing teams for residents, and to designate separate facilities within nursing homes to keep COVID-19 positive residents away from those who have tested negative.

Easter storms sweep South, killing at least 6 in Mississippi

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Strong storms pounded the Deep South on Sunday, killing at least six people in south Mississippi and damaging up to 300 homes and other buildings in northern Louisiana.

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency director Greg Michel said one person killed was in Walthall County, two were killed in Lawrence County and three were killed in Jefferson Davis County. All three counties are more than an hour's drive south of Jackson, near the Louisiana state line.

The National Weather Service said strong winds were sweeping through other parts of Mississippi, and a tornado was spotted north of Meridian near the Alabama state line.

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves declared a state of emergency Sunday night after he said several tornadoes had struck the state.

"This is not how anyone wants to celebrate Easter," Reeves said on Twitter. "As we reflect on the death and resurrection on this Easter Sunday, we have faith that we will all rise together."

Before the storms moved into Mississippi, the weather service reported multiple tornadoes and damaging winds over much of northern Louisiana. There were no immediate reports of serious injuries. Utility companies reported thousands of power outages.

The mayor of Monroe,

Louisiana, Jamie Mayo, told KNOE-TV that the storm damaged 200-300 homes in and around the city. Flights were canceled at Monroe Regional Airport, where siding was ripped off buildings and debris was scattered on runways. Airport director Ron Phillips told the News-Star the storm caused up to \$30 million in damage to planes inside a hangar.

In northwest Louisiana, officials reported damage to dozens of homes in DeSoto and Webster parishes, according to news outlets.

The weather service said the greatest risk for strong Easter Sunday storms covered much of Mississippi, Alabama and western Georgia. That area was at "moderate risk" while much of the rest of the South was under at least a "marginal" risk, the weather service said.

The weather service said a broader area, from east Texas to the East Coast was under at least a "marginal" risk of storms.

In Morgan County, Alabama, a church roof and steeple were damaged by lightning Sunday afternoon, Morgan County Emergency Management Agency Eddie Hicks told AL.com. Shoals Creek Baptist Church in Priceville was struck by lightning Sunday afternoon. No injuries were reported.

WBMA-TV reported that strong winds damaged buildings and snapped trees in Walker County, Alabama, north of Birmingham.

Asia

Abe fuels anger, Chinese mask maker rushing to fill orders

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's "stay home" message has fueled anger and accusations that he was insensitive to people who cannot rest at home because the government's social distancing measures are voluntary and don't come with compensation.

Some people reacting to his message on Twitter said Abe acted like "an aristocrat." The one-minute video released Sunday shows Abe sitting at home, expressionless, cuddling his dog, reading a book, sipping from a cup and clicking on a remote control. Entertainer Gen Hoshino appeared in part of the video but later said the clip of him strumming on a guitar at home was used without his permission.

Abe declared a state of emergency in Tokyo and six other prefectures last Tuesday and broadened it to nationwide Saturday. He is asking people to stay home and reduce interactions by as much as 80%, but he wants non-business closures to wait until effects of the stay home request are evaluated.

Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike went ahead and asked non-essential businesses such as hostess bars, movie theaters and schools to close until May 6, with some exceptions, but most other prefectures have



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, center left, speaks during a meeting of the task force set up to curtail the new coronavirus outbreak, at his official residence in Tokyo Saturday, April 11, 2020.

fallen behind. Saitama, north of Tokyo, started non-essential business closures Monday, and its Gov. Motohiro Ono said he planned to ask the central government for financial support to compensate for the business closures.

Many Japanese companies are slow to switch to remote work and many people were still commuting to their jobs.

Japan had 7,255 confirmed cases of coronavirus infection and 114 deaths, according to the latest figures Monday.

In other developments around the Asia-Pacific region:

'QUIET SPREAD': South Korean officials have raised concerns over a "quiet spread" of the virus, pointing to trans-

missions at bars and other leisure facilities that supposedly indicate eased attitudes toward social distancing. Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun said officials were discussing new guidelines that would allow engagement in certain economic and social activities while also maintaining distance.

MAKING MASKS: Mask and disinfection wipe producer Wuhan Zonsen says \$50 million in orders from European countries and the United States will keep it at full production capacity until June. Chinese exporters are facing stricter quality inspections from regulators after complaints were made of substandard goods being sold abroad.

Indian-controlled Kashmir on Sunday evening. Ambarkar said some people were also feared injured as authorities launched a rescue operation amid heavy cross-border shelling in the area. Since Friday, Pakistan's military has charged India with repeated violations of the cease-fire along the frontier.

1 year after attacks, Sri Lankans mark Easter at home

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Christians in Sri Lanka celebrated Easter in their homes on Sunday, participating in religious services through television as churches remained closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. TV stations aired the Easter Vigil and Holy Mass in all three main languages used in the Indian Ocean island nation. But there were no organized events to remember the more than 260 people, mostly Catholics, who were killed in Islamic State group-inspired bomb attacks on three churches and three

hotels in Sri Lanka last Easter. "Last year, some misguided youths attacked us and we as humans could have given a human and selfish response," Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, the archbishop of Colombo, said in his sermon at a Mass celebrated at his residence on Sunday. "But we mediated on Christ's teachings and loved them, forgave them and had pity on them," he said. "We did not hate them and return them the violence." Sri Lanka has been under curfew for most of the past three weeks. The Church is planning a private ceremony on April 21—the anniversary of the 2019 attacks—to remember the dead. Dushyanthan Niroshan, who works as a travel coordinator, said he participated in Holy Mass at home, but looked at it positively. "It was more deep and meaningful," he said. "This virus is a God-given opportunity to stop and think about our past lives." Sri Lanka has confirmed 199 cases of the coronavirus, including seven deaths.

World

AMID PANDEMIC

Christians celebrate an Easter like no other

NEW YORK (AP)—Christians celebrated Easter Sunday isolated in their homes by the coronavirus while pastors preached the faith's joyous news of Christ's resurrection to empty pews. St. Peter's Square was barricaded to keep out crowds, while one Florida church drew a large turnout for a drive-in service in a parking lot.

Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, released from the hospital after a week of treatment for COVID-19, paid an emotional tribute to the country's National Health Service, saying its doctors and nurses had saved his life "no question." He especially thanked two nurses who stood by his bedside for 48 hours "when things could have gone either way."

The strangeness of this Easter was evident at the Vatican. St. Peter's Square, where tens of thousands would normally gather to hear Pope Francis, was empty. Francis celebrated Easter Mass inside the largely vacant basilica, calling for global solidarity to confront the "epochal challenge" of the pandemic and urging political leaders to give hope and opportunity to people who've lost jobs.

Worldwide, families who normally would attend

church in their Easter best and later enjoy festive group meals stayed home. Police checkpoints in Europe and outside closed churches elsewhere left the faithful watching services online or on TV.

Some U.S. pastors went ahead with in-person services despite state or local bans on large gatherings.

At the Happy Gospel Church in Bradenton, Florida, about 100 cars carrying 250 people gathered in the parking lot to hear Pastor Bill Bailey's Easter sermon. Some sat in lawn chairs or on tailgates, but families stayed at least 6 feet apart; those in their cars occasionally honked to convey agreement with Bailey's remarks.

In Louisiana, a pastor who is facing misdemeanor charges for holding services despite a ban on gatherings, said people from every state and all but one continent attended his Easter service Sunday morning.

"My hope is not in a vaccine for a virus, but all my hope is in Jesus," Rev. Tony Spell said during the service shown online at Life Tabernacle Church in the city of Central.

Worshipers could be heard clapping, singing and responding "Amen" during the service, though it was not clear how many attended. President

Donald Trump had said he planned to watch an online service led by the Rev. Robert Jeffress of the Southern Baptist megachurch First Baptist Dallas, although the White House wouldn't confirm whether he did. The pastor, a staunch ally of the president, mentioned Trump in his remarks.

"We are going to get through this crisis with your continued strong leadership and the power of God," Jeffress said.

In their own Easter message, Trump and his wife, Melania, paid tribute to the medical professionals, first responders and other essential workers striving to combat the pandemic.

Back on March 24, at a Fox News virtual town hall, Trump had broached the possibility that the U.S. could emerge from widespread lockdowns by this weekend.

"I would love to have the country opened up and just raring to go by Easter," he said.

"Wouldn't it be great to have all of the churches full?" Trump said in a subsequent interview. "You'll have packed churches all over our country."

Instead, most churches were empty, including St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, which is the epicenter of the pandemic in the U.S.

UK virus deaths top 10K as leader Johnson leaves hospital

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson expressed his gratitude to the staff of the National Health Service for saving his life when his treatment for the coronavirus could have "gone either way" as the U.K. on Sunday became the fourth European country to surpass 10,000 virus-related deaths.

Dressed in a suit, and looking and sounding relatively assured, Johnson said in a video posted on Twitter after his discharge from St. Thomas' Hospital in London that it was "hard to find the words" to express his debt of gratitude to the NHS for saving his life "no question."

He listed a number of the frontline staff members who cared for him during his week-long stay at St. Thomas' Hospital in London but singled out two nurses who stood by his bedside for 48 hours "when things could have gone either way."

The prime minister said the nurses he identified as Jenny from Invercargill on

New Zealand's South Island and Luis from Portugal, near Porto, were the reason that "in the end, my body did start to get enough oxygen."

"Because for every second of the night they were watching and they were thinking and they were caring and making the interventions I needed," he said. "So that is how I also know that across this country, 24 hours a day, for every second of every hour, there are hundreds of thousands of NHS staff who are acting with the same care and thought and precision as Jenny and Luis."

After his release from the hospital, Johnson made his way to Chequers, the prime minister's country retreat northwest of London, and on the advice of his medical team won't be returning to work immediately, his office said in statement.

It's unclear what involvement Johnson will have in this week's anticipated extension to the nationwide lockdown the prime minister announced on March 23 in

response to the worldwide virus pandemic.

Johnson, 55, was the first world leader confirmed to have the virus. His COVID-19 symptoms, including a cough and a fever, at first were described as mild, and he worked from home during the first few days of self-isolation.

But he was admitted to St. Thomas' on April 5 after his condition worsened and transferred the following day to the intensive care unit, where he received oxygen but was not put onto a ventilator. Johnson spent three nights in the ICU before he was moved back to a regular hospital ward on Thursday.

Johnson's pregnant partner, Carrie Symonds, cheered the prime minister's improved health in a series of tweets, saying she "cannot thank our magnificent NHS enough."

There "were times last week that were very dark indeed," Symonds wrote. "My heart goes out to all those in similar situations, worried sick about their loved ones."

ASIAN BRIEFS

India, Pakistan troops trade heavy fire in Kashmir; 3 killed

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Tensions between India and Pakistan flared again in disputed Kashmir on Sunday as the two armies barraged each other with heavy artillery fire, killing at least three civilians, Indian police said. Each side accused the other of starting the shelling and targeting civilian areas in violation of the 2003 cease-fire accord along the so-called Line of Control that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan. India and Pakistan have a long history of bitter relations over Kashmir, with both claiming it in its entirety. They have fought two of their three wars since 1947 over their competing claims to the Himalayan region. Shri Ram Ambarkar, an Indian police officer, said three civilians, including a woman and a child, were killed when shells fired from the Pakistani army hit homes at two locations along the Line of Control in the Kupwara area of

Overdrive

TNS
Dressed in green with skid plate and 27-inch front approach angle, the 2020 Toyota Sequoia TRD Pro brings swagger to the three-row ute segment.

AUTO REVIEW:

Toyota's Sequoia

warhorse is aging well

By HENRY PAYNE
THE DETROIT NEWS

The Toyota Sequoia is aptly named. It's yuge.

Pre-COVID economy, Mrs. Payne and I went out one Saturday night for dinner and a movie. But the 6-foot-9 1/2 tall Sequoia wouldn't fit in the theater's adjacent parking garage. Height limit: 6-foot-5.

I tried another nearby garage. Height limit: 6-foot-3. Hmmm. I finally found parallel street parking nearby. The end space, naturally—you don't think I was gonna try to park this 17-foot cruise-liner between two cars, did you? I'd need a tug boat.

If we still had kids in the house, I suppose we'd go to the movies in shopping malls where sprawling lot parking is more appropriate for Brobdignagian SUVs.

Then again, maybe this isn't an urban SUV at all. My 2020 Sequoia was dressed in off-road TRD Pro trim with big, knobby tires, roof rack, intimidating grille, black highlights and a coat of Army Green.

"Henry, did you join the Army?" shouted my neighbor as I rolled by.

With its huge roof rack and 66 cubic feet of space with third-row seats folded, I could clean out the local Costco of toilet paper, bottled water and other essentials—then haul the family to a rural cottage and

wait out the coronavirus.

With its impressive, 10-inch ground clearance (my 5-foot-5 wife needed a roof ladder to climb in), 27-degree front approach angle, skid plate and off-road-ready Fox shocks, the Sequoia seemed tailor-made to live out by the sequoias anyway. Far from the fancy-pants Chevy Tahoe that dominates its segment.

By dominates, I mean crushes.

The stylish Tahoe (and sister, stretched Suburban) swaggered to over 160,000 in sales last year compared to Sequoia's 10,289—and that's even before the new-generation 2021 SUVs hit the market. The new versions will put increased pressure on the Sequoia in addition to gang-ing up on the Toyota with two available models.

The Tahoe takes aim at the aging Sequoia's segment advantages—like my adventure-equipped TRD Pro. The Tahoe will offer its own lifted, skid-plated all-wheel drive version called the Z71. The Tahoe will leapfrog the Sequoia's yawning 19 cubic feet of rear cargo space (behind the third row) with 25 cubic feet of its own. And Tahoe will match the Sequoia with an independent rear suspension for the first time.

Chevy's catch-up is a reminder of the Toyota's value these many years even as the interior and exterior design shows its age.

I folded my 6-foot-5 frame

into the Sequoia's driver seat with some difficulty. Despite the big SUV's size, front headroom is 35 inches—a significant 7 inches less than its Chevy and Ford Expedition competitors. Other interior dimensions, however, are competitive, and front and rear legroom will easily accommodate the average 250-pound American. And the easily accessible third-row bench seats can swallow adults, too.

Based on the same ladder frame as the Tundra pickup, the Indiana-made Sequoia's dashboard space will be familiar to pickup owners. Covered in acres of black plastic, the big ute may not win any style awards but there is storage aplenty including twin gloveboxes, a bottomless center console and even a clever, hidden center-console slot for valuables or a laptop.

I had to squint at the puny 7-inch infotainment screen, but Toyota counters with its typical, class-leading suite of standard safety features including emergency braking, lane-keep assist, high-beam assist and adaptive cruise-control.

A word about Toyota's adaptive cruise-control. Like the Sequoia's 2008 chassis, it's a bit dated.

Cruising along in the big behemoth at 55 mph, the system began to brake as it sensed traffic ahead at a stoplight. But whereas modern adaptive cruise-control systems brake to a stop, Toyota's system

works until 30 mph ... and then it gives up. Whoa, Nellie!

I quickly stabbed the brakes to keep from running over the top of the poor sedan in front of me. It's a general rule of self-driving systems these days—you need to know what the car can't do.

General Motors prides itself in engineering taut, lean truck chassis that consistently lead the class whether owners ever notice it or not. You'll notice it in the Sequoia.

The big SUV leans this way and that around corners as if bobbing on waves. Maybe the TRD PRO badge on the rear should read LAND YACHT. Happily, the truck's big 5.7-liter V-8 engine comes to the rescue when the road straightens out.

The console shifter is from your grandpa's generation with its clunky, gated track, but the driveline underneath will make you smile. The 6-speed tranny smoothly downshifts to engage the mighty eight and pull the TRD Pro's 4,900-pound hull out of the waves.

BRAUUUGGHHH!

Keep your foot in it and you can watch the fuel gauge needle move. I got just 10.8 mpg in my week behind the

wheel—and the Toyota's optimistic EPA-rated 14 mg is still 20% less fuel-efficient than Chevy's top dog 6.2-liter V-8 despite giving up 39 horsepower. Ouch.

The Sequoia will have to ride its ol' V-8 nail for another two years before it gets updated off the Tundra's coming new platform. That's a loooooong time given that current offerings from Chevy and Ford are already a generation ahead—and the Tahoe-Suburban coming later this year are even better.

Like plucky Americans holding out for the coronavirus to pass, the Toyota will be doing the best it can with what it has. Namely value.

While starting at just under \$50,000 like the Tahoe, the base V-6 Sequoia offers good ol' Toyota durability—and standard features the Chevy can only dream about. Adaptive cruise, for example, isn't optioned in the all-wheel drive Tahoe until it hits \$68,000, the price of my TRD Pro tester.

Speaking of TRD Pro V-8, the new rugged-appearance package allows Toyota to compete at the high end of the market against Tahoe's head-turning RLT Edition (soon to be the Z71 package

of the 2021 model)—but for much less. Apple to apples, my TRD Pro tester clocked in at \$67,078—or about \$8,000 less than a comparable Tahoe.

You can buy a lot of toilet paper to wait out COVID-19 with 8-grand.

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 Toyota Sequoia

■ Vehicle type: Front-engine, rear- and four-wheel drive, 7- to 8-passenger SUV

■ Price: \$51,305, including \$1,395 destination charge (\$67,070 4x4 TRD Pro as tested)

■ Powerplant: 5.7-liter V-8

■ Power: 381 total system horsepower, 401 pound-feet of torque

■ Transmission: Single-speed direct drive

■ Performance: 0-60 mph, 6.7 seconds (Car and Driver); towing: 7,400 pounds

■ Weight: 5,730 pounds

■ Fuel economy: EPA 13 city/17 highway/15 combined

Report card

■ Highs: Go-anywhere family beast of burden; standard features galore

■ Lows: Aged interior; ancient adaptive cruise-control

■ Overall: 3 stars

TNS
The rear-drive-based, 2020 Toyota Sequoia also comes with a 4x4 option for Michigan winters - and remote country homes.

Life & Style

‘SNL’ returns for work-at-home version with host Tom Hanks

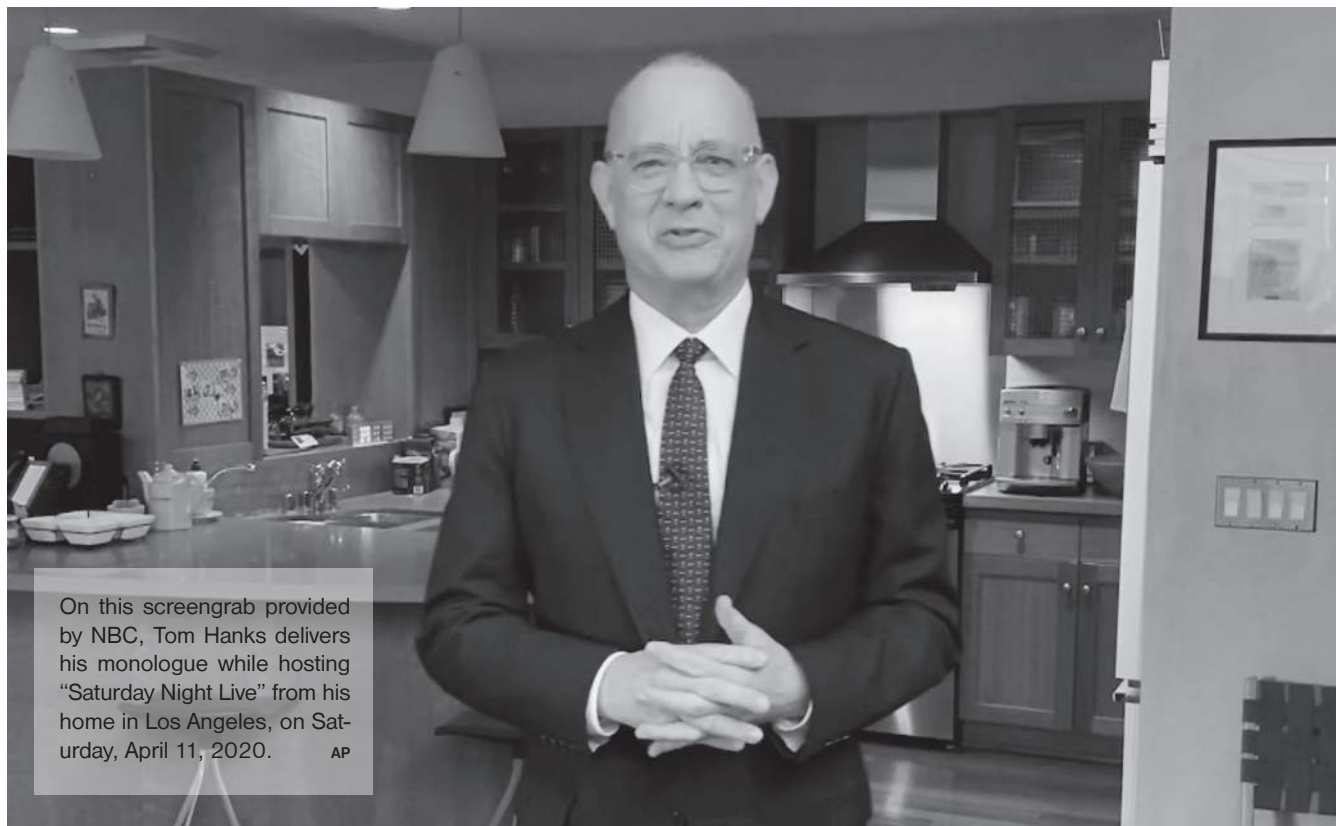
NEW YORK (AP)—“Saturday Night Live” tried its first “quarantine version” of the comedy show, with Tom Hanks, one of the first celebrities to disclose he had the coronavirus, Coldplay singer Chris Martin and the comedy show’s entire cast phoning in with jokes from home.

After being gone for more than a month, the NBC comedy institution returned to the air on Easter weekend by emulating other late-night hosts who have abandoned studios and audiences for DIY merriment amid the coronavirus pandemic.

“It is good to be here, though it also very weird to be here hosting ‘Saturday Night Live’ at home,” Hanks said, speaking from his kitchen. “It is a strange time to try and be funny, but trying to be funny is ‘SNL’s whole thing.’”

Hanks, in a close-cropped haircut he said was done for a movie, announced last month that he and his wife Rita Wilson tested positive for the virus. They recuperated while in Australia.

On the show, the Oscar winner said he had to get used to learning his temperature in degrees Celsius, where 36 was



On this screengrab provided by NBC, Tom Hanks delivers his monologue while hosting “Saturday Night Live” from his home in Los Angeles, on Saturday, April 11, 2020. AP

good but 38 was bad, “like Hollywood treats female actresses.”

The world’s new way of keeping in contact—Zoom meetings—was ripe for satire. The show’s “cold open” showed all cast members arrayed in an onscreen gallery familiar to many working from home.

“Live from Zoom,” Kate McKinnon said. “It’s some-time between March and August.”

One skit featured a mock Zoom work meeting, where McKinnon and Aidy Bryant played a pair of inappropriate receptionists. Bryant was stopped just in time when she brought her laptop with her

into the bathroom.

“I used my license as toilet paper and now I don’t know my own birthday,” Bryant said.

Pete Davidson made a mock Drake video and McKinnon portrayed Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg doing a workout routine from home.

“Every day I eat half a chicken,” she said. “Sorry, chickpea.”

With Bernie Sanders dropping out of the Democratic primary race since the last time “SNL” was on, Larry David appeared from his easy chair to once again impersonate the Vermont senator.

“Don’t worry about me,” he

said. “It’s spring in Vermont, so soon it will be up to 40 degrees. And I finally have the time to relax and finish that heart attack from October.”

Feds deny claims of misconduct in college admissions case

BOSTON (AP) — Federal prosecutors denied allegations that investigators deliberately withheld and fabricated evidence to entrap actress Lori Loughlin, her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, and other prominent parents charged with cheating the college admissions process.

Prosecutors told a judge in a legal document filed late Wednesday that he should reject the parents’ attempt to dismiss the charges, calling their claims of government misconduct “baseless.”

“Criminal defendants are entitled to a vigorous defense. But making baseless claims that evidence was fabricated to frame innocent parties goes too far,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Frank wrote.

Lawyers for the parents have accused investigators of bullying their informant into lying and then concealing evidence that would support the parents’ claim that they believed the payments were legitimate donations that would benefit the schools, rather than bribes for coaches or officials.

Comedian Tim Brooke-Taylor of The Goodies dies with COVID-19

LONDON (AP)—British performer Tim Brooke-Taylor, a member of comedy trio The Goodies, has died after contracting the new coronavirus. He was 79.

Brooke-Taylor’s agent says he died Sunday morning “from COVID-19.”

Brooke-Taylor was part of Cambridge University’s

Footlights revue, the breeding ground of several generations of British comic talent. He broke into radio and television comedy in the 1960s alongside future Monty Python members John Cleese and Graham Chapman.

Brooke-Taylor went on to form The Goodies with Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie.

The trio specialized in slightly surreal sketches incorporating visual inventiveness, slapstick and songs. Their song “Funky Gibbon” even became a U.K. top 10 chart hit in 1975.

Their TV show, which ran throughout the 1970s, was a hit in Britain, Australia and New Zealand and developed a cult following in many other

countries.

“The Goodies” formed part of a golden era of British television comedy in the 1960s and 70s that included “Monty Python’s Flying Circus” and “Not the Nine O’Clock News.”

For more than 40 years, Brooke-Taylor was also a panelist on BBC radio’s much loved comic quiz show “I’m

Sorry I Haven’t a Clue.”

Goodies co-star Garden said Brooke-Taylor was “a funny, sociable, generous man who was a delight to work with. Audiences found him not only hilarious but also adorable.”

“His loss at this dreadful time is particularly hard to bear,” Garden said.

Mom tires of chauffeuring daughter without a license

DEAR ABBY: My 20-year-old daughter refuses to get her driver’s license. She took the learner’s permit test four times when she was 16, failed it each time and gave up. She goes to college online and has a job at the local store. Next week she is going to be promoted to assistant manager.

I don’t work, but I’m tired of driving her around. We live in a small town that has no public transportation. Every time her father or I mention getting her license, she says, “Don’t start” or, “I don’t want to talk about it!” She doesn’t date, but is very involved in church. She has her own phone, which she pays for, and also pays for gas. She’s responsible in every way — she just REFUSES to drive! HELP!

TIRED OF BEING A TAXI MOM

DEAR TIRED: Your 20-year-old daughter is a smart cookie. Unlike you, she doesn’t have to worry about car payments, insurance premiums or the cost of parking. As long as you agree to chauffeur her around, she isn’t going to provide her own transportation. I suggest you encourage her to get a bicycle. And after four years, it’s time for her to take the driver’s test again.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married nine years and have two major issues in our marriage:

1. He feels I spend too much money.

2. I think he spends too much time away from home doing things he wants to do.

We have fallen into this cycle of him being away from home, so I spend money, which results in him spending more time away from home. Should we have separate bank accounts? Should I make him cancel some of his weekly activities?

STRUGGLING IN ST. LOUIS

DEAR STRUGGLING: Separate bank accounts might be a good idea, provided you don’t use yours to mask the fact that you’re spending more than you should. As to “making” your husband cancel some of his weekly activities, I don’t think it would work to your benefit.

A better solution/investment would be for the two of you to talk this out in the office of a licensed marriage and family counselor, because it appears you’re spending as a way to punish your husband for his absence, which is not only not constructive but DEstructive. Doing activities outside the home TOGETHER might also be helpful.

DEAR ABBY: My former spouse, the father of our adult daughters, recently passed. He will be cremated. Although he did not remarry, I did. Our youngest daughter has made all the burial arrangements.

My ex and I did not communicate much after the divorce. What is my role as mother? Do I send flowers, greet attendees, as if we

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



were still together? We were married almost 30 years.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

DEAR WHAT SHOULD I DO: Your role as the mother is to support your daughters and the rest of the family. If your daughters want you there, be there for them. Greet anyone you know politely and thank them for being there for “the family.” If you wish to send flowers, by all means do so. But beyond that, nothing more is required of you.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Goodell to announce picks from basement



NEW YORK— Roger Goodell will be like many of us during the 2020 NFL draft.

In his basement.

Per NBC's Peter King, Goodell will announce all 32 first-round picks from his basement in greater New York City.

The confirmation that Goodell will be at his house is no surprise, though it reasoned that he could have traveled to a television studio if the NFL deemed it appropriate. But with team personnel drafting from their homes and unable to meet in team facilities, it makes sense that Goodell isn't leaving his house either.

Goodell typically greets every first-round pick he can with an embrace during in-person draft events. And we're still waiting to see if we'll get to see those moments virtually. An NFL Network report said that "Madden" creator EA Sports was working to create virtual moments with picks and Goodell, though the company poured cold water on that report.

Prospects will still be attending the virtual draft in real life. The NFL has said 58 players will be available during the virtual proceedings. Maybe they can give Goodell a wave or something when their names are called. And we could also get a chance to see what part of Goodell's basement looks like.

Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow and Ohio State edge rusher Chase Young are among 58 prospects who will participate remotely in the NFL draft in two weeks that will double as a telethon to raise money to fight the coronavirus crisis.

Burrow is one of eight LSU players who will take part in the April 23-25 draft, one more than Alabama.

Normally, top prospects would be invited to the draft itself, but this year's festivities in Las Vegas were scuttled by the coronavirus outbreak and the draft will instead be conducted in a studio with the league's 32 teams participating remotely from their hometowns.

The SEC leads all conferences with 24 prospects confirmed to participate in the event, which will serve as a three-day fundraiser benefiting six charities that are battling the virus and delivering relief to millions in need.

Those charities are: the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross; CDC Foundation's All of Us; and the COVID-19 response funds of Feeding America, Meals on Wheels America and United Way.



AP
LSU quarterback Joe Burrow, seen here warming up before a NCAA College Football Playoff national championship game against Clemson in New Orleans, is among the top prospects in the NFL Draft.

middle. And so actually nobody was particularly thrilled, but everybody understood that on balance it was probably the fairest way to approach it."

The NFL has resisted generally the concept of a draft lottery, possibly to avoid shining a light on the obvious connection between losing in a lost season and winning better status in the draft. A lottery for 2021 likely would generate intense interest, showing the league that it could join the Scouting Combine, free agency, the schedule release, and the draft as key moments in the non-playing season.

Whatever the process would be, the league would have to come up with something in order to fairly determine who picks when in the 2021 draft, if there's no 2020 NFL season. Whatever the order, the 2021 draft would be even more of a crapshoot, if there's no 2020 NFL season.

If there's no 2020 NFL season, there will be no 2020 college football season. Which will force teams to make decisions about prospects who hadn't played or practiced football in nearly a year and a half.

Despite the logistical challenges of operating a 255-pick draft remotely, teams will still have just 10 minutes between picks in the first round, seven for rounds 2 and 3 and five for rounds 4-7.

The Cincinnati Bengals own the first overall pick.

Among the other players who will participate are Clemson linebacker/safety Isaiah Simmons, Auburn defensive tackle Derrick Brown and Ohio State cornerback Jeff Okudah.

What happens to draft if 2020 season is scrapped?

No one wants to think about the possibility that the NFL won't be able to play in 2020, but if the virus controls the calendar in a way that prevents pro football from happening, one question will be the proper order for the 2021 selection process.

It's way down the road, to be sure. But it's impossible to rule it out at this point, because it's impossible to rule out anything until a vaccine and/or quick are effective treatment are developed to eradicate the coronavirus.

And so if the NFL eventually has to construct a draft order without a season preceding it, the NFL could look to the precedent created by the NHL in 2005, after a lockout wiped out a season.

That year, the prize was Sidney Crosby—and hockey

came up with a three-tiered lottery to determine who would get dibs on him. Three balls, two balls, or one ball were handed out to all teams based on performance in the three prior seasons. Teams who hadn't been to the playoffs at all and hadn't had the

No. 1 overall pick in any of the four prior drafts received three balls. Teams with only one playoff appearance or one No. 1 pick received two. Everyone else got one.

"Half the league probably wanted everybody to have an equal chance, and the other

half wanted all the teams that didn't make the playoffs to have the only chances, weighted or unweighted," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said at the time, via Birkett. "And if you look at the statistical odds of both scenarios, what we did is about in the

NBA considering 25-day ramp up to return to games



"You're going to need a slow ramp-up. How slow it is going to be somewhat limited, with everyone wanting to get things going... Realistically three weeks, four weeks would be ideal, but I don't think that's going to happen."

That's what one trainer said about the time needed to return to games after the coronavirus shutdown ends, enough time to get guys back into shape and avoid potentially serious run of injuries.

Would 25 days be enough? That's one option the league is seriously looking at—11 days of social distancing working out (one player, one coach, one basket), then two weeks of a training camp, according to Brian Windhorst of ESPN.

That timeline for a return may be reasonable, teams and players to get back, and the league wants to crown a champion.

The problem is the clock doesn't start until the NBA

gets a green light from medical experts, and nobody knows when that will happen.

That clock cannot start too late or the season is lost. Sources I have spoken with have said the league doesn't want to completely upend next season, which means finishing the current around the first week or two of September (which would still push back the start of next season). That would mean starting even a condensed playoffs at the beginning of August, which means getting the green light to restart in June and being ready to go by early July at the latest.

Will there be wildly available, accurate testing by that point (nationally will there be enough tests so it is not terrible PR for the "elite" NBA to have tests that might otherwise have gone to hot spots for the disease)? Will the NBA be able to create a "bubble" in Las Vegas or wherever that keeps everyone inside healthy if a second wave of the virus hits (the Chinese

Basketball Association has struggled with that)? Then there are issues of keeping hotel janitorial staff, cooks, security and others security free, not to mention that players would be isolated from their family and close friends for more than a month (at least) to make this bubble work.

Even with all the hurdles, the only way this current NBA season gets completed is to make the bubble work. It's going to be a lot longer before players are back in arenas in front of 18,000 fans playing meaningful games.

Meanwhile, Sacramento intends to match any offers Bogdan Bogdanovic may sign this summer. Bogdanovic is a restricted free agent, giving the Kings the right to match any offer sheet he signs with another team.

Bogdanovic is coming off his third season in Sacramento after coming to the NBA in 2017. The 6'6" wing averaged a career-high 14.5 points in 2019-20. He shot 36.1% on three-pointers on

7.2 attempts per game.

Bogdanovic became a starter for the Kings in late-January, as Luke Walton swapped him and Buddy Hield in the lineup. In 20 games as a starter, Bogdanovic's play remained steady, while Hield's play improved off the bench. Hield shot 47.6% from behind the arc as a reserve, while also maintaining his scoring output.

The Kings invested \$94 million in a four-year extension for Hield that starts next season. Point guard De'Aaron Fox is extension eligible this year. Fox will command top dollar, as one of the best young point guards in the NBA. Sacramento also re-signed Harrison Barnes to a four-year, \$85 million contract this past summer.

While the Kings commitment to retain their own players is admirable, something will eventually have to give. Sacramento's payroll is getting increasingly expensive with the new deals, as well as signing free agents.

Olympic CEO hints games could be in doubt even in 2021

TOKYO (AP)—As the coronavirus spreads in Japan, the chief executive of the Tokyo Games said Friday he can't guarantee the postponed Olympics will be staged next year—even with the long delay.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe issued an emergency declaration this week to battle the virus, putting the country under restrictions after it seemed it had avoided the spread.

"I don't think anyone would be able to say if it is going to be possible to get it under control by next July or not," Tokyo organizing committee CEO Toshio Muto said, speaking through an interpreter at a news conference conducted remotely. "We're certainly are not in a position to give you a clear answer."

The Olympics were postponed last month with a new opening set for July 23, 2021, followed by the Paralympics on Aug. 24.

Abe has been criticized for being slow to act against the coronavirus. Opposition political leaders have suggested he downplayed the severity of the virus and have said it may have been tied to wanting to hold the Olympics this year.

"We have made the decision to postpone the games by one year," Muto added. "So this means that all we can do is work hard to prepare for the games. We sincerely hope that come next year mankind will manage to overcome the coronavirus crisis."

Muto was asked if there are alternative plans to 2021.

"Rather than think about alternatives plans, we should put in all of our effort," he said. "Mankind should bring together all of its technology and wisdom to work hard so they can development treatments, medicines and vaccines."

Japan has reported about 5,000 cases and 100 deaths.



AP
People pose for a photo in front of the Tokyo Olympic flame in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture, on March 25, 2020.

The country has the world's oldest population, and COVID-19 can be especially serious for the elderly.

Muto was asked several times about the added costs of postponing, which has been estimated by Japanese media at between \$2 billion-\$6 billion. He said it was too soon to know the price tag and who would pay.

He also acknowledged that Tokyo Olympic organizers had taken out insurance.

"Tokyo 2020 has taken out several insurance policies," he said. "But whether the postponement of the games qualifies as an event that is covered is not clear yet."

He was also asked about the Olympic flame, which was taken off public display this week in Fukushima prefecture. Muto had an away-from-

the-microphone talk with Tokyo spokesman Masa Takaya before talking about the flame.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Olympic swimming trials have been re-scheduled for June 13-20, 2021 in Omaha, Nebraska.

USA Swimming announced the new dates Friday, less than three weeks after the Tokyo Olympics were postponed until 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The trials were initially scheduled for June 21-28 in a temporary pool at the CHI Health Center Omaha, the 17,560-seat downtown arena that will host the event for the fourth straight quadrennial.

The trials are the sole qualifier for U.S. Olympic team, with the top two fin-

ishers in each event earning a trip to Tokyo. The original 15-session, eight-day schedule will remain for the re-scheduled trials.

"Fans can expect to witness the same incredible level of competition and entertainment throughout this highly-anticipated event," said Mike Unger, USA Swimming's chief operating officer.

As of Friday, 1,213 athletes had qualified to compete at the trials. USA Swimming expects all will be accepted to the rescheduled event.

Updated standards will be issued for those who have not yet qualified when swimmers are cleared to return to competition, which is on hold because of the virus outbreak.

Fans who had already pur-

chased tickets for the 2020 trials will be reissued the same tickets or can get a refund within six months.

In Moscow, international authorities should "turn a new page" and forget Russia's Olympic doping ban because of the coronavirus pandemic, the country's sports minister said Friday.

The World Anti-Doping Agency barred Russia from the Olympics for four years after ruling last year that doping data from a Moscow laboratory had been manipulated. The Court of Arbitration for Sport is to rule on whether the ban is valid, but hearings have been delayed because of the health crisis.

Sports Minister Oleg Matytsin said the virus outbreak means the parties in the legal proceedings should avoid

a ruling against Russia because it would fracture the Olympic movement.

"The leaders of the International Olympic Committee, the World Anti-Doping Agency and the judges who will decide the ruling should understand that now we're living in completely different conditions and this crisis which has been created, including the crisis in relationships, should probably come to an end, turn a new page and understand that the main thing right now is to be together," he said.

"When you see that everyone is isolated and everyone is at home, the consciousness changes, the mentality changes and people understand that now there are priorities and there are issues which go on the backburner," Matytsin added.



GEORGIA—Tiger Woods walked off the 18th green as a Masters champion for the fifth time, a major champion for the 15th time, and the sensation was unlike anything he had ever felt.

More memorable than any shot—the 8-iron that trickled by the hole at the 16th was the decisive blow—was the purposeful stride toward his son, grabbing Charlie with both arms, lifting the boy and turning from side to side.

His mother was next. His daughter. His loyal support staff. And then a lineup of players outside the clubhouse, some of them in green jackets. They had been upstairs in the locker room reserved for

Tiger's last Masters as much about family as a green jacket

champions, yet they shared a feeling with the entire golf world.

Memories gave way to reality. "That's going to be in people's minds forever," Rickie Fowler said last month, just two days before the Masters was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Was it his biggest win?

It would be hard to rate that over his first Masters title in 1997, a "hello, world" moment not tied to advertising. Woods set 20 records that signaled the arrival of a brand of dominance never seen in golf.

The most historical?

His 2001 victory at Augusta gave him a sweep of the four majors in a span of 294 days.

He stands alone there.

This was no less significant because of what it meant—to Woods, to his sport, to peers who grew up idolizing him and to a worldwide audience that had reason to believe it might never happen again.

"I had just an amazing amount of emails and texts that were flowing in," Woods said in a conference call leading up to the Masters. "But I was more surprised by the amount of videos of people watching the Masters and seeing their reaction when I hit the shot on 16 or when I made the putt, whether it was on airplanes or in airports or restaurants."

"The amount of emotion that people were showing,

that's what blew my mind."

That's what made this Masters different from his other four, this major different from the other 14.

Adam Scott doesn't usually stick around when he's finished with a major. One exception was in 2006 after the U.S. Open at Winged Foot when he was headed for the airport and turned around when close friend Geoff Ogilvy emerged the winner.

He finished Sunday at Augusta National about the time all hell broke loose at Amen Corner.

"You got a sense, as he was kind of taking the lead on the back nine, that something special could be happening,"

Scott said. "There was a lot of guys watching in the champion's locker room and I stayed and watched. You don't often get that group of people together very often. You just had that sense it's a significant moment in the sport again."

Gary Woodland wasn't about to miss it.

"I don't usually watch much golf," he said. "I had my family there. I was flying out Sunday afternoon. I played early that day, and we pushed the flight back. I wanted to watch that."

The only mystery is where it leads.

Woods was never the same the rest of the major season. He played nine holes of practice at Bethpage Black and

missed the cut in the PGA Championship. He was never a factor at the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, site of his 15-shot victory, as untouchable as any of his records. He missed the cut at the British Open.

Woods had another knee surgery to repair minor cartilage damage. And then he won again, this time in Japan, to tie the PGA Tour's victory record with No. 82.

In only two starts this year, in chilly California weather, he didn't look like the Masters champion. His back felt stiff and he skipped three tournaments he ordinarily plays. And now golf is shut down, which Woods said has given him time for his 44-year-old body to feel stronger.

McCann: MLB returning too soon ‘a recipe for disaster’



The biggest challenge facing baseball's return from its coronavirus-imposed shutdown isn't how players will deal with playing in empty stadiums.

It isn't how realigned leagues and divisions will alter the path to the postseason.

It isn't how much service time will be handed out to players or how many rounds there will be in the draft or whether the universal DH, electronic strike zones and expanded playoffs will be here to stay.

It's whether it will be safe enough to come back at all in 2020.

The league and the union continue to brainstorm ways to salvage what is already expected to be a shortened season, and there have been plenty of reported details regarding how players could be quarantined, regularly tested and be centrally located in spring training facilities in Arizona and Florida.

But as has been seen in Japan, where the season was brought back too soon only for multiple players to test positive for COVID-19, all those measures could be useless if the timing isn't right.



AP
Chicago White Sox's James McCann bats during the second inning of a spring training baseball game against the Texas Rangers Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020, in Surprise, Ariz.

"Everyone wants to get back as quickly as possible, but the biggest thing we've done well as a union and a league is step back and realize the current situation is greater than any one game of baseball," White Sox catcher James McCann said during a Friday conference call.

"You're talking about life and death for thousands and thousands of people. And as

much as we love the game and want to be on the field, there are priorities, and keeping people healthy and safe needs to be a priority.

"If we rush things, we possibly create a recipe for disaster, whether that is with coming back too soon and people getting coronavirus, or you rush back things to where guys aren't ready to play and you have injuries that last into

following seasons.

"So that's the big thing, understanding the importance of the situation. At the end of the day, we have a platform with Major League Baseball and as Major League Baseball players. We need to be part of the solution, not the problem."

There seem to be two major roadblocks to even thinking about it being safe to bring baseball back: 1. Would it be safe for the players to compete in an environment without risking infection? and 2. Would measures taken to assure player safety have any impact on the availability of testing or other medical resources for the general population?

Plenty of other questions accompany even affirmative answers to each of those queries,

but if Major League Baseball cannot assure either of those things, then wouldn't waiting be a more prudent option?

"Don't get me wrong, I want to play just as much as anyone else, but we kind of have to know what's going on a little bit more first," White Sox relief pitcher Steve Ciskhek said Friday. "Every time I read something in the news, it's like a different answer. So clearly we don't really have a hold on this virus.

"For me, I definitely want there to be more absolutes to where we can either get testing, or would it affect the rest of the country where we wouldn't be taking tests away from anyone that would really need it. And if there is some sort of vaccine that they come out with, that they know

would be helpful or work, to me those two things would be the most ideal to being able to play or start a season.

"If we don't have those two things, and one person gets sick, then the rest of us are going to get sick. There's just no hiding that. And then you ask about the healthcare workers. Obviously, they're our biggest heroes right now, and the last thing we want to do is make more work for them and put them at more risk."

The truth of the matter is that there is too much that is unknown about the future of the situation facing the country and the planet to make any sort of claims about when baseball could return to normalcy. Hopes of a start date in May or June or July are just that: hopes.

The truth is that the continued evolution of the situation will tell us far more than any discussions being held between the league and the union, and those parties ignoring that truth could lead to big problems when it comes to player and public safety.

"If we allow things to happen the way it's going to happen and we don't force things, baseball will be back," McCann said. "Whether it's late 2020 or 2021, whatever the situation may be, baseball will come back."

ROLLERS

From Page 20

G-Rollers. The lanky forward stole possession from the 69ers and went straight to the basket for the go-ahead, 60-58. The Rollers hung tough on defense in the closing seconds of the thrilling title match to avoid a monumental collapse in the season where the team went undefeated (11 games) in the elimination.

"We came into to the finals unbeaten. Then all of a sudden we were down by 10 points halfway through the fourth quarter," said Diaz, who had Jose Tumaquip as his trusted lieutenant.

"We called a timeout and told the boys that it's not right to go down like this with all the hard work we put in from Day 1 of the season," the long-time coach added.

When the game resumed, a determined G-Rollers crew showed up, wanting to turn things over and prove something to their coach.

"It was a pretty even match and it took hard work and mental toughness in the end to take that great win," Diaz said.

The come-from-behind championship victory was also a good send-off for Vince Teregeyo and several other G-Rollers players, as the following year, they moved up to the Rotary youth caging (U18 division). Joining Teregeyo and Tumaquip on the champion squad were regular season



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
C.J. Morales, left, seen here driving against the Sonics' Jun Javier during a local league at the Garapan Basketball Court, was among the graduates of the Rollers Basketball Club program.

MVP Robert Naraja, Allan Moses, Joe Pangelinan, Gary Philip, James Sablan, Keone Chariton, John Aldan, Jose Castro, Steve Tellei, Kevin Aldan, and Don Teregeyo.

Diaz acknowledged that Vince Teregeyo may have scored the biggest basket in the Rollers' perfect season, but every one chipped in to make things happen for the team.

"That year, there was no 'I' on the team. Everyone was doing their share," said Diaz, who also recognized the hard work put in by the G-Rollers manager and her wife, Verna.

"She was the backbone of the team during that season, doing all the extra things to make sure the players are taken care of during practice and matches."

NMIFA

From Page 20

Chinese-Taipei, Guam, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Singapore, and Timor Leste.

Guam drew the most participants with 400 players and coaches joining the event that doubled as the 13th Annual

Sugar and Spice Middle School Girls Soccer Festival held at the Guam FA National Training Center. Kyrgyz Republic, on the other hand, lured 380 participants, who performed various football game tasks including dribbling, shooting, relay races, and juggling.

Singapore had a women's forum, while Timor Leste hosted a friendly match between AD. SLB Laulara and FC. Buibere at the Campo Democracia Training Field in Dili, and Chinese-Taipei conducted a grassroots coaching course and festival. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Guam player takes a shot in front of her defender during last month's 13th Annual Sugar and Spice Middle School Girls Soccer Festival at the Guam FA National Training Center.

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Olympic CEO
hints games
could be in doubt
even in 2021

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rollers coach recalls epic win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Through the years, Rollers Basketball Club had its share of moments in the CNMI's basketball scene, but the one that topped coach Joe Diaz's list was their 2004 title win in the Inter-Village Youth Basketball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



"It was against the Afetnas 69ers—a team with so much firepower," Diaz said.

According to Diaz, their team, which was then known as the G-Rollers, faced the Preston Basa-anchored 69ers, while mobile big man Bill



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rollers coach Joe Diaz, standing fourth left, poses with his players after ruling one of the competitions in the Rotary caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in 2006. Majority of Diaz's players were part of the Rollers' U14 team that pulled off a come-from-behind win in the finals of the 2004 Inter-Village Youth Basketball League.

Babauta, J.R. Ngeskebei, and Jack Sanchez were also on the opposing squad.

The 69ers, who were coached by Ray Duenas, went up by 10 points in the last five minutes of the winner-take-

all finale, but the G-Rollers refused to throw-in the towel and came back to steal the championship.

A jumper from Jomar Tumaquip tied the match at 58-all, with less than a minute left in the game, while eventual

Finals MVP Vince Teregeyo delivered the dagger for the

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kobe Mendoza, seen here taking off for a shot against the Sonics' Erick Dela Rosa during a local league at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium, was among the notable NMI players who suited up for the Rollers.

NMIFA 3-on-3 Girls Jamboree on AFC



The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's 3-on-3 Girls Jamboree appeared on the Asian Football Confederation's story highlighting last month's AFC Women's Football Day celebration across the continent.

The jamboree held last March 8 drew nearly 200 players, aged seven to 45 and they were divided into 32 teams that played in the adult and youth division matches. Mama's Still Kickin' (Masters), Matansa (U9), TanHoldings Football Club Betde (U12), Soccer With Attitude (U15), and Power Puff Girls (Women's Division) emerged as champions in the annual event held in observance of the International Women's Day.

Certificates were given to the division winners with NMIFA president Jerry Tan, general secretary Ross Zapanta, and NMIFA Women's Committee chair Vickie Izu-

ka presenting the award to the champion teams.

Besides the NMI, other AFC-members countries that participated in last month's celebration and had their ac-

tivities featured in the final part of the confederation's series of stories on the AFC Women's Football Day were

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young player compete in one of the games in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's 3-on-3 Girls Jamboree held last month as part of the Asian Football Confederation Women's Football Day celebration.